

# LATIN AMERICAN REPORT



SEPTEMBER 1956

35c

**CARIBBEAN** Confederation plans for British West Indian Colonies approved by Parliament.

**PUERTO RICO** Governor Muñoz promotes political opposition . . . vigorous economic growth. Result: democracy.

**HAVANA** Tunnel under the bay opens vast new area for metropolitan expansion.

**CUBA** Free world warned against apathy toward Communist menace by President Batista.

**IS CUBA A COMMUNIST BEACHEAD?**



# Cuba

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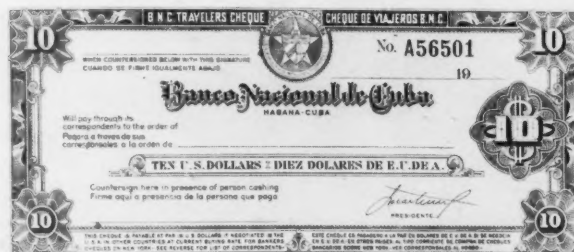
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- 2** Law to stimulate industries, granting substantial tax exemptions;
- 3** Financial aid through newly created Credit Institutions, plus
- 4** The cooperation of Commercial banks by themselves or in conjunction with official credit institutions.

Banco Nacional de Cuba, an institution similar to the Federal Reserve Banks in the United States, will gladly furnish complete information on any particular required.

Cuba has taken another step towards its economic independence. Banco Nacional has issued its own travelers cheques redeemable at par in U. S. Dollars. These cheques are issued in denominations of \$10.00, \$20.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00. A photograph of a cheque follows:

*Banco Nacional de Cuba has arranged with its correspondents throughout the world for the payment of its travelers cheques. In the United States of America they will be paid at par. In other foreign countries they will be paid in local currency at the buying rate for bankers cheques on New York. List of some of the principal correspondent banks appears on the back of each cheque.*





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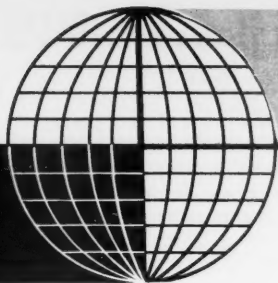
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# OUTLOOK

## ARGENTINA

... Although the promised Argentine general elections are still more than a year away, maneuverings on the political battlefield already are assuming noisy, even explosive, proportions. Intermural bickerings have resulted in deep schisms in two of the country's major political parties, the powerful Union Civica Radical and the declining Democratic Party. The UCR, which generally has supported the provisional government of General Pedro Aramburu, is split into four factions. Major division has resulted from a drive by certain segments of the party to present Dr. Arturo Frondizi, an extreme leftist, as the party's standard bearer in the forthcoming elections. Lesser parties are similarly torn by differences in representation and platform formulation. Amid this confusion, an old political group boasting new ideologies, has made a strong bid to capture the political spotlight—and the so-called "floating" Peronista vote. At a recent rally in Buenos Aires, the militaristic, nationalist Union Federal grandly proclaimed itself a new movement—a "new force." Principal speaker, Mario Amadeo, an ex-foreign minister in the government of the late General Eduardo Lonardi, called for a drive to promote the slogan of the deceased Lonardi: "Neither conquerors nor conquered."

At the end of the rally, hundreds of nationalists paraded down Buenos Aires' Calle Corrientes shouting "Bengoa for President!" and "Liberty for Uranga!"

Both Leon Justo Bengoa and Juan José Uranga are Army generals, ex-cabinet ministers in the government of the Lonardi regime which deposed Perón, and bitterly opposed to the present Aramburu government, which they have described as composed of "traitors." Ostensibly for their lack of discipline, but presumably for their rankling out-spokenness, both have drawn sentences of disciplinary internments in Southern Patagonia—Argentina's Siberia. Reportedly, Bengoa has just returned to the capital after a five-month exile in Patagonia

while Uranga is under arrest charged with anti-government plotting.

Bengoa is still an unknown quantity in the Argentine political stew. Some say he is nothing more than an ambitious man striving for power; others call him ultra-patriotic. Whichever definition fits him, it appears that the Nationalistic Union Federal will recognize him as their candidate in the elections.

However, feeling in the party is not unanimously behind Bengoa. Biggest controversy is over the sizeable Peronista vote, widowed since Perón's fall and subsequently courted in one fashion or another by every major party. Friends report that Bengoa is not willing to campaign directly for the Peronista vote since this could cast doubts on the party's intentions. But if the votes come voluntarily, he will gladly accept them. Another one of Bengoa's handicaps is that as a member of the original revolutionary government, he is pledged not to seek elective office in the future constitutional government. Although Bengoa seems inclined to overlook this pledge, the Aramburu government has made it clear that it will not. Said Vice President Isaac Rojas recently: "Bengoa cannot aspire to any elective post . . . he is affected by the decree of ineligibility."

One result almost certain to spring from the furor is that the Aramburu government will have to issue rules governing the organization of political parties and procedure in the 1957 elections. Without some restraining force, it could well be that all the contestants would be knocked out before the battle begins.

... Argentina's political ailments have been matched, unfortunately, by equally complex ills in the economic area. Struggling to recover from the economic bankruptcy inherited from the Perón regime, the country is burdened with an antiquated transportation system, an anemic power and fuel supply, a deficient crop production and a staggering trade debt abroad. Notwithstanding such discouraging plagues, the Provisional Government

is striving to nurse its charge back to reasonable health as quickly as possible.

Dr. Carlos Coll Benegas has been in Washington negotiating for financial aid estimated to run as high as \$1 billion. Some United States aid already has been granted and other financial help, in the form of new investments and private credits, already has gone into Argentina. In Europe, Argentina has successfully negotiated a trade payments agreement which will facilitate settling her enormous trade bill with 10 countries, not yet including Germany, her major creditor, with which negotiations are now underway.

At home, the government is considering establishing a government railroad company to attack directly some of the maladies which have crippled rail transportation. Without an adequate railroad system—which Argentina is far from having now—the country's own food supply as well as her vital trade business is seriously threatened. To solve the nation's equally vexing liquid fuel shortage, President Aramburu recently announced an ambitious oil production program. He revealed that the national oil agency, Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales, had been given autonomy to carry out exploration and development plans. Throughout the country the step was hailed as masterful and farsighted. But foreign oil production experts in Argentina and abroad regarded the hopeful new policy, which expects to bring petroleum self-sufficiency to Argentina within three years, as unrealistically optimistic. Disconcerting factors supporting their glum evaluation:

—Production will have to triple the current 80,000 barrels a day to meet expected demand in three years.

—Argentina does not have the technology or equipment to effect so ambitious a project singlehanded.

—At present, Argentina does not have the capital—and will not admit foreign interests into the oil business—to finance the program.

Despite the dire predictions, Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales busily prepared to push ahead with its challenging undertaking.

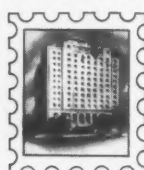
## BRAZIL

... Nationalism, taking ever increasing strides in Brazil, has won a marked victory in this giant republic of Latin America. Within a week, President Juscelino Kubitschek, after prolonged pressure from Communist and ultra-nationalist factions, agreed to suspend exports of radioactive minerals to the United States, to cancel a Brazil-United States agreement to explore jointly in Brazil for uranium,

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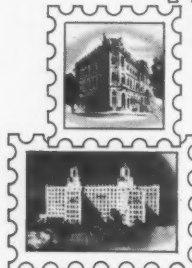
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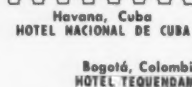


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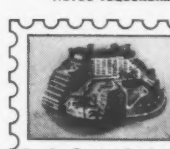
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and proclaimed "pure, noble and intelligent" nationalism as a means to bring greater economic and social freedom to his country.

Abrogation of the agreement, hailed by the Rio Communist press as a "historic victory of the people," came after a military-controlled commission overwhelmingly recommended that Brazil terminate its fissionable materials pact with the United States. It also followed eight months of investigations pushed in the Chamber of Deputies by extreme right and left-wingers attempting to show the United States used unfair pressure to obtain Brazilian atomic minerals.

President Kubitschek's speech dealing with nationalism stressed that it should not be taken as a hatred of foreigners. On the contrary, the President said, Brazil will always welcome foreign capital provided it does not attempt to "subordinate or render inferior" the people of the country. In this category, presumably, is the other Brazil-United States agreement whereby the United States, under the "Atoms for Peace" plan is committed to provide the Latin republic with \$350,000 to help build a research reactor and 13.2 pounds of uranium to fuel it. This plan has not been denounced.

In view of Brazil's long standing protective attitude towards its oil (no foreign capital allowed for exploitation), the new atomic minerals policy points the way towards a further tightening of controls over natural resources in this power-short nation.

## COLOMBIA

... The cold war between President Gustavo Rojas Pinilla and the press has spread into the international field, touching on its way Protestantism and Communism. When the Inter-American Press Association, self-appointed watchdog of press freedom for the Hemisphere, released a blast against Colombia's press policies in the form of a letter to General Rojas Pinilla, the Colombian National Press Commission lashed back with charges of "ignorance" and "interference." Said Dr. Manuel Mosquera Garcés, president of the Commission: "This is a continuation of a defamatory campaign ... to undermine the prestige of Colombia ... ." Mosquera further implied that the campaign was Communist inspired since "members of the board of directors of IAPA are known to be affiliated members of the International Communist Party ... ."

President Rojas has long claimed to be a firm believer in freedom of the press. However, in the case of Colom-

bia, currently undergoing a phase of "political pacification," he has said that part of the press has behaved irresponsibly, thus causing the government to take "restrictive measures to stop slander and offense to citizens." The restrictive measures have included closing several newspapers—*El Tiempo*, *El Espectador*, and others—imposing pre-publication censorship, and levying huge economic sanctions against offensive publications. Most recently, the IAPA has accused President Rojas of conniving to sabotage the IAPA's annual meeting to be held in Havana October 26. In denouncing the scheme, IAPA President James G. Stahlman, called it "ludicrous" and the proposal of a "two-bit imitator of Hitler and Perón. . . ."

While this verbal battle raged between the IAPA and the Rojas regime, President Rojas himself delivered the inaugural speech at the opening of the new *Diario Oficial* in Bogotá in August. The President expressed hope that the government daily would be a "model publication . . . responsible . . . objective . . . because of its zeal in the defense of public interests and its profound respect for truth." One of the first reports to be carried in the new publication, according to an earlier announcement by Gen. Rojas, would be a "Red Book of Colombia." Among other items, the report would include evidence proving the guilt of Communists and Protestant propaganda in causing Colombia's continuing strife.

With such a din of charges, counter-charges and alibis filling the air, neither side can claim a clear-cut case nor can a reasonable forecast be made of where it all will lead.

## MEXICO

... After all the hubbub raised over the government's proposed cotton barter system (LAR, August, 1956), Mexico has quietly let it be known that the plan was primarily a "warning" of what could happen if Mexico's cotton markets were seriously jeopardized.

Since the market is remaining surprisingly steady, despite increased sales of United States government surplus cotton, Mexico's project in all likelihood will be discreetly shelved. Actually, the plan had never attained decree status because it was not published in the Official Gazette. The news brought unanimous sighs of relief from importers of automobiles, parts and a host of other items who were faced with marketing Mexican cotton abroad in order to obtain permits on their own imports.

# Let Freedom Ring

We salute those courageous writers, editors and publishers of the Western Hemisphere who meet in annual convention on October 26 in Havana, Cuba.

Today, what was once a small group, now has become a powerful international organization—The Inter-American Press Association.

Despite the great changes in growth, those writers, editors and publishers still faithfully follow the same original pattern—staunch believers in, and supporters of freedom of the press.

Over the years it has not been a simple nor an easy struggle. Writers and editors and publishers have been insulted, have been jailed, have been killed, have been exiled, have seen their properties taken away by the state.

Yet little by little the battle for freedom of the press has been producing more and more victories. The attitude of the organization, however, is that as long as there is a single instance in which press freedom is being violated the struggle must go on.

Those who would invoke censorship now are beginning to realize that tyrannical methods are of little avail. Jailing has failed, killing has failed, expropriation has failed. The little light of freedom has proven greater than all of them.

So now an old line is being revived and followed. Unfortunately it is a line which presents a real problem for those who believe in, and support press freedom. The pattern is this:

*Charge the press with irresponsibility and then invoke censorship.*

Where the charge is made without any supporting truth the strugglers for freedom of the press can meet the challenge. The problem develops when the charge is true.

There can be no quarreling with the assertions that instances of irresponsibility are few. But if there is one single instance, then the threat to freedom of the press remains real and serious.

Nor can there be any quarreling with the assertion that, as the battle for freedom of the press moves toward total and complete victory, the need for responsibility becomes even greater.

*William G. Gaudet*  
PUBLISHER

## THIS MONTH'S COVER:

Famous Malecón Boulevard, skirting Havana with historic Morro Castle seen across the bay. Color photograph courtesy Cuban Tourist Commission.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS ISSUE: 8, Carlos de Saavedra; 13, Carlos de Saavedra, Scott Seegers, Hamilton Wright; 20-26, British Information Service; 14-19, Cuban Tourist Commission; 30-31, Hugh B. Cave; 36-38, Compania Fomento del Túnel de la Habana.

# LATIN AMERICAN REPORT

*Published monthly to record and interpret the changing history of our hemisphere.*

SEPTEMBER 1956  
VOL. 1 NO. 6

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# WASHINGTON LETTER

September, 1956  
Washington, D. C.

## IS FREE TRADE INCOMPATIBLE WITH NATIONAL SECURITY?

Defense essentiality as a doctrine for restricting imports has gone through its first public hearing before the Office of Defense Mobilization. ODM is now scanning the evidence in effort to decide whether the American Cordage Institute has a valid argument for the restriction of baler and binder twine imports on the grounds that they are threatening to "impair the nation's security."

Cordage industry claims laid mainly on the fact that raw fibers for its products are now included in the national stockpile. The industry contended that the increase in imports in recent years tended to reduce its capacity to produce at levels necessary to meet emergency requirements of rope.

Importers, farm groups and foreign producers lined up solidly against any restrictions. To the complaint of the cordage industry that imports, mostly from Mexico and Canada, were ruining their business, a representative for Belgian producers hauled out Dun and Bradstreet ratings to show they were "extremely healthy."

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange and the National Farmers Union argued that without imports added cost to the farmers would amount to anywhere from \$8 million to \$25 million.

New Orleans attorney James J. Morrison and former Interior Secretary Oscar Chapman, representing Mexican twine makers, argued that "unrestricted imports" from Mexico is essential to preserve an adequate source of henequen in the United States.

Other industries are closely watching outcome, not likely to come until early next year, to see whether law will serve as genuine means of guarding national security or whether it will serve as another means of hampering trade.

Informed opinion in Washington is that cordage case was extremely weak and that final ODM decision won't encourage trade restrictionists.

Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), spoke against import quotas by stating that restrictions would only increase the profits "of one or two of our domestic producers" and he termed the cordage appeal "one of the most flagrant misuses of the

national security slogan I have ever encountered."

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### LATINOS QUESTION EFFECTIVENESS OF U. S. LOAN POLICIES

Resignation of Henry F. Holland as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs brought to an end behind-the-scenes debate going on since Spring between Holland and some Latin American ambassadors to United Nations on effectiveness of United States economic policy towards Latin America. Last April, Holland attended luncheon given by Latin American ambassadors in New York and outlined United States policy. The gist: The \$7 billion annual trade between United States and Latin America is making a big and positive contribution to Latin America's development. Private American investment in the area has made another big contribution and more would flow to Latin America if the climate were right. Export-Import Bank is ready to contribute its share to Latin American economic growth by extending loans for any "sound" application it receives.

Some Latin Americans present, including Colombia's ambassador to United Nations and United States, Francisco Urrutia, took issue with the effectiveness of that policy and prepared memorandums refuting it. Urrutia has a high regard for Holland and thinks he has done much to bring about closer economic cooperation with Latin America, but he disagrees with much of the economic philosophy being followed. He feels United States should:

1. Take "effective" steps to expand imports from Latin America.
2. Encourage private American investors to invest in such quantities in Latin America that the inflow will be greater than the outflow.
3. Greatly increase credit facilities for Latin America.

To Holland's argument that the trade volume between the United States and Latin America has increased by 700 per cent in the last 20 years, Urrutia replies that Latin Americans are worried over the fact that the increase took place between 1936 and 1946, due to war conditions and has remained relatively stationary since then. And, he says, prospects for the future are not bright as long as there are quotas on sugar and petroleum, as long as the United States sells its agricultural surpluses in competition with Latin America and as long as the United States fails to enter agreements to ensure "adequate" prices for such products as coffee.

Urrutia says private United States investors have contributed only five per cent of the total investments made in Latin America in the past fifteen years and he feels new investments haven't contributed to a solution of the area's balance of payments difficulties.

The Ambassador also feels that the United States can do much more to increase those investments than the Latin American countries. He thinks the greatest deterrent to United States investment in Latin America is not the climate but the high corporation income tax charged by the United States.

## Washington Letter

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Urrutia feels that neither the private banks nor the public ones are giving adequate amounts of credit to the area. Private banks limit their activities to commercial credits and the World Bank limits itself to only the most indispensable development project.

The Colombian Ambassador insists that Export-Import Bank loans, although apparently easier to obtain, have been limited by provisos that the credits must be used to purchase only United States goods and services, borrowers must work out concrete projects and the projects must either earn dollar exchange or reduce the nation's needs for dollars.

Urrutia recalls Holland's argument that the Export-Import Bank has not rejected a single loan due to the lack of ability to repay on the part of the country that asked for it.

His answer is that Latin American countries consider it neither "decorous" nor "possible" to ask the Export-Import Bank for loans which have been rejected by the World Bank. This is not due to the fact that the projects lack importance or economic soundness, but to the fact the World Bank has considered that even though they are sound, the payments ability makes it advisable for the nation to postpone them several years.

\*\*\*\*\*

### EX-IM BANK ADOPTS LIBERAL POLICY FOR ARGENTINA

Washington indicated strong confidence in the economic and financial policies of the new Argentine regime with a \$100 million, 18-year loan. It may be just a start. Mission headed by Export-Import Bank's Vance Brand will survey economy on the spot, then decide if further loans are warranted. World Bank is also expected to launch own survey before end of year.

In initial talks, Export-Import officials wanted to limit size of loan to a little more than half that figure on the ground that Argentina couldn't earn the dollars to repatriate the loan. State favored higher sum. Argentina National Bank President Carlos Coll Benegas came up with figures convincing bank of its future ability to repay.

The loan was made for general, rather than specific projects. Usually bank insists on carefully worked out projects, but rather than delay loan went ahead. Specific projects will be worked out later, but most of money will be used to recondition Argentina's desperately run down railroads.

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# LETTERS

## You're Welcome

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the copy of LATIN AMERICAN REPORT magazine which I found most interesting and beautifully presented. In my position of Coordinator of Latin American Affairs of this City, and also as President of the Los Angeles Mexican Chamber of Commerce, it follows that I find every article and even most of the advertisements of great interest . . .

R. J. CARREON, JR.

Los Angeles

Dear Sir:

I wish to congratulate you for your interest in promoting greater understanding and wider interest in Latin

American affairs. I have always felt that more attention should be given to relations with the countries of Central and South America, which are more closely allied to us than other parts of the world . . .

REGINA NEWMAN

Colombian Consulate  
Boston

## Cotton Futures

Dear Sir:

I am a Mississippi Delta cotton farmer and extremely interested in progress being made in cotton farming in all Latin American countries. Would certainly appreciate any information on developments . . . in this field . . .

W. D. PROWELL, JR.

Clarksdale, Miss.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Stories on the cotton industry in the Leeward Islands (Sea Island long-staple cotton),*

*in Mexico, and in Brazil are now in the planning stage.*

## Topsy and Us

Dear Sir:

Today I received the July, 1956, issue of your magazine . . . and on realizing that it is Vol. 1, No. 4, I understood for the first time the meaning in the prospectus I received: ". . . will bring you the first 12 monthly issues."

Undoubtedly you have received complaints about LATIN AMERICAN REPORT arriving later than its date. For a magazine just getting started, I'm not surprised . . .

WILLIAM N. DAILEY

Swarthmore, Pa.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: You are so, so right. In publishing, problems never diminish. Like with Topsy, they just grow and grow. That's our one and only explanation.*

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### GUATEMALA

#### Coffee Plantation

**Proposal:** To finance a coffee plantation to be located near Puerto Barrios in the southeastern corner of Guatemala, on the hill known as Cerro San Gil, at an altitude of 7,497 feet. Still in the planning stage, the project was initiated with an offer of 18,485 acres of land, surrounding Bahía de Santo Tomás, considered an "excellent rural property" suitable for coffee growing.

Capital desired: \$2,300,000 cash. Terms regarding stock participation, etc., to be agreed upon at initial investors' meeting. The author of the proposal and owner of the land desires to assign as his share the property, evaluated at \$1,068,800. However, if a group of individuals prefers to form the corporation without outside parties involved, the owner will sell the land at the price indicated.

Capital would be employed, under strict control of investors, in the development of a plantation consisting of from 11 million to 22 million coffee trees.

**Background:** Owner possesses all legal documentation to the property,

which has never been cultivated—a great advantage as far as fertility is concerned. Abundant foliage provides the desirable shade vital for coffee trees, especially essential during the first two or three years of growth.

There is a strong possibility of obtaining all-inclusive tax exemption for an extended period of time, thereby making it possible for the company to attract workers by providing them with clothes, medicines and so forth at reduced rates. Machinery, construction materials, and fuels could be obtained at low rates . . . thus increasing the margin of profit. The author of the proposal cites other advantages: An ample pure water supply (the Bay of St. Thomas; Río San Agustín, Río Las Escobas, Río Santo Tomás, Río Tameja) existing throughout the property would facilitate the important "coffee washing" process; "heated air" produced by firewood from the densely forested areas of the property would accelerate the drying process. This would enable the coffee to be delivered to New York or New Orleans before the end of 30 days, thus eliminating excessive storage fees. Property is near the new port of Santo Tomás—60 hours by ship from New Orleans, five days from New York.

It is projected that planting would be accomplished in two years, with an additional two years of constant care required to actually establish the plantation. During the fifth year, the plantation would be complete . . . at this time the utilization of the initial capital would terminate and plantation would become self-sustaining, allowing the reimbursement of the capital investment. By the end of the second or third crop, initial investment would be completely recovered.

**Outlook:** Appears very favorable. It is estimated that on attaining full production, the trees would yield approximately 10,120,000 to 20,240,000

pounds of coffee, depending on the number of trees planted (each tree yields about a pound of coffee). Based on these figures, gross income should be from \$4 to \$8 million annually.

The prestige of Guatemalan coffee ("Mild" and of high quality due to its being grown at about 7000 feet altitude) is well-known and can count on a firm market, a constantly increasing consumption.

### BOLIVIA

#### Beef Cattle

**Proposal:** To finance expansion of an established meat-packing plant located in the southern region of the Department of Beni, with grazing plains along the shores of the Yacuma and Mamoré Rivers, navigable outlets to the Atlantic Ocean through the Amazon system.



Company desires capital investment of \$300,000 to double its present assets which total \$300,000. To be on partnership basis, although owners are open to other terms. Investment to be secured by the Mutual Security Act between Bolivia and the United States guaranteeing a safe return of 25 percent.

Disposition of capital: 1) Improve pastures by planting special grasses; 2) Purchase breeders from Texas and Brazil; 3) Install pumping system to prevent floods from the Yacuma; 4) Purchase 2000 to 3000 native cows at the rate of \$10 per head for three-

# INVESTMENT

year-olds; 5) Import wagons, jeeps, etc.

**Background:** Company has no outstanding debts and is tax-exempt for five years through 1960. It operates three plants, one of which, with a storage capacity of 77,000 pounds, is located on the outskirts of the city of Santa Ana, capital of Beni. Firm also operates a power plant with radio transmitter and slaughter house facilities. Transportation from the plains to the plateau mining districts is daily by aircraft owned by the Bolivian Development Corporation.

Besides expanding its cattle interests, firm is also desirous of going into other related industries using by-products from the main operation. Construction of a saw mill to produce fine woods for export to the United States is contemplated. Plans are also in the offing to establish a dairy operation. Horns can be used in the manufacture of buttons for export. Climate is suitable for all varieties of tropical fruits, and a portion of the land is to be put into coffee cultivation.

**Outlook:** The Beni Department, choice cattle country, has expansive grazing plains which could easily support millions of heads of cattle. This company owns some 1,500 head on its several ranches, which could hold as many as 15,000. It provides the mining towns of the plateau region with beef . . . the market is large enough to support ten plants the size of the company in question. As it stands now, Bolivia still must supplement its beef supply by imports from Argentina. During the last fiscal year, the plant flew some \$200,000 of beef into mountain villages. With the aid of the solicited investment, hopes are that production can be at least tripled. Still, there would be room for expansion within Beni.

## MEXICO

### Playground Equipment

**Proposal:** To finance the expansion of a Mexico City company engaged in the manufacture of toys and play-

ground equipment.

Capital investment of \$15,000 is desired, to be repaid over a period of three years (in six-month installments) with interest on unpaid balances at the rate of 10 percent annually. Assets of the company offered as security. Also, if investor so desires, a collateral signature of a well-known corporation could serve as an additional guarantee.

This firm manufactures a complete range of children's games as well as equipment for playgrounds, public parks, juvenile sporting clubs, and school yards. Capital will be utilized to purchase raw materials in order to increase production.

**Background:** In August 1953, operations were initiated with a small amount of capital by an experienced businessman who was formerly with an office machinery concern. The company's workshop is under the direction of an experienced mechanical technician. The assets have been quadrupled in the three years since the company opened. It now occupies rather elaborate quarters with a display room in the most important commercial center of the city. The number of employees, laborers and adminis-

trative, has grown considerably.

All necessary raw materials are at hand; there is no need to import any equipment.

**Outlook:** Contended to be excellent. At the outset of this business, it was unique to Mexico. Theretofore any children's games and playground equipment had to be manufactured by foundries and workshops primarily engaged in other operations. Thus, the firm was extremely well received and has enjoyed an ever-increasing market.

There is to this day no existing competition, the full demand of such customers as Sears & Roebuck de Mexico being supplied from the workshop of this company. With the help of the proposed investment, a promotional program is also contemplated with the objective of expanding the market to fill the requirements of the whole country.

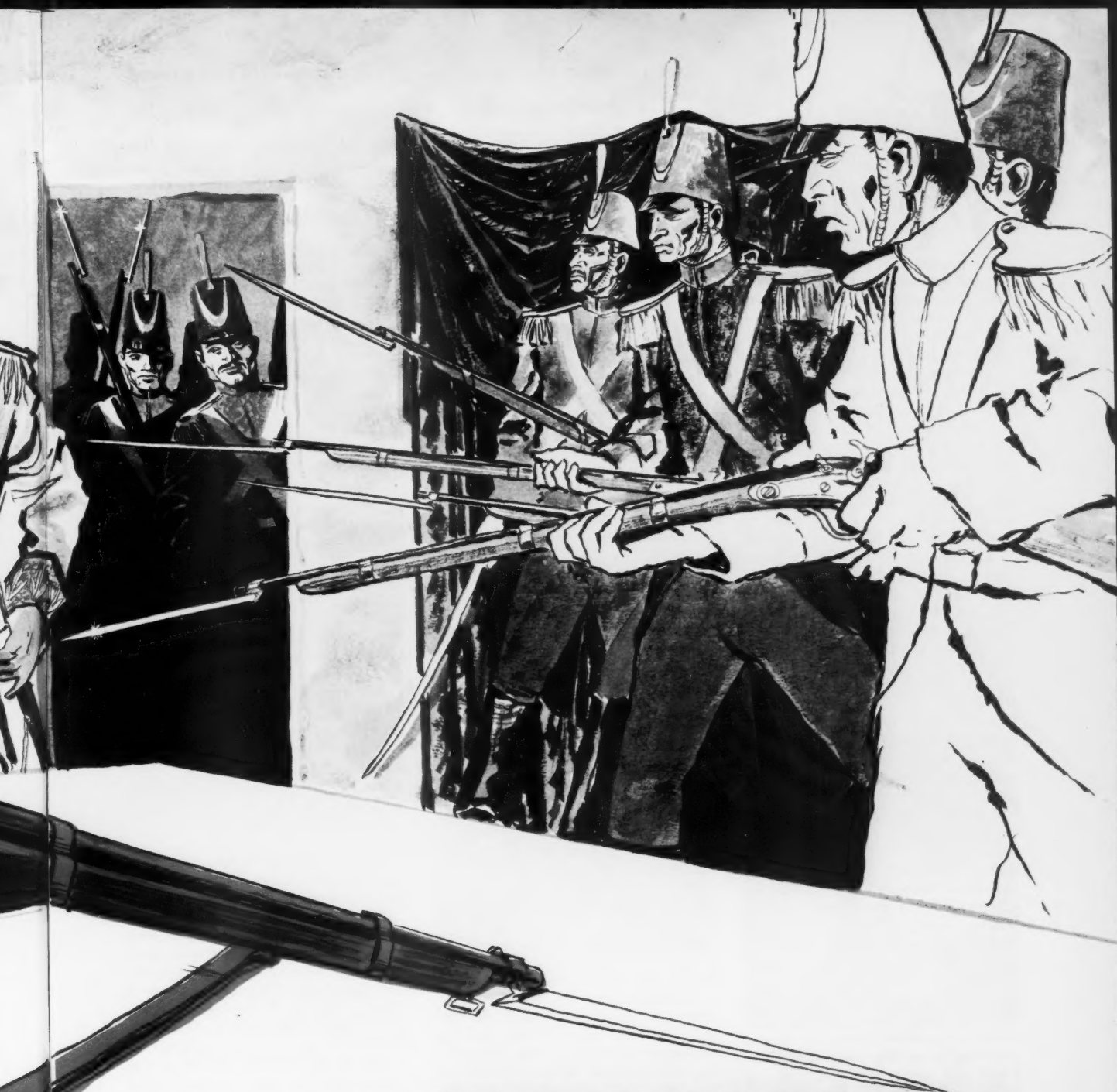
A net profit of 20 percent is anticipated for 1956. After acquiring the loan, company estimates a yearly sales volume of \$100,000, with a total net profit of \$25,000. Therefore, investment could be recovered in one year, but it is hoped that investor will agree to a longer term, so that constant improvements can be made.





Haiti's Toussaint L'Ouverture is a puzzling historical anomaly. To a Spanish officer he was a "pure spirit." To the Frenchman Lacroix, he was a man whom "no one approaches without fear, and no one leaves without respect." Even to his enemies he was "a philosopher, a general, and a good citizen." To Wordsworth he was

the personification of faith in "man's unconquerable mind." To Napoleon he was the "gilded African"; to Leclerc, a constant source of humiliation. To history, he is a strange and tragic figure, a man with "elements of saintliness" who spent the first 50 years of his life as a slave and rose suddenly to world fame for a paradoxical

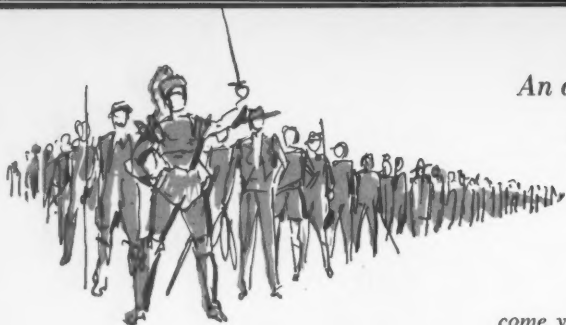


decade as "The First of the Blacks" . . . leading his people through a tumultuous revolution . . . dying in shackles.

During his life, this grandson of an African king made one fatal blunder . . . a blunder which perhaps was predestined, for Toussaint L'Ouverture did in death what his honor would not let him do in life.

It all started in 1802 when Toussaint received a cordial note from Captain-General Charles Leclerc, commander of the French colonial forces, urging that he call on General Brunet to discuss "matters of state"

# INVITATION TO BETRAYAL



... and Toussaint accepted despite the vigorous protests of his comrades. Rumor had it that this was no innocent invitation, but rather that a trap was being laid.

Toussaint did not deny that possibility. On the other hand, the rumors well could be no more than groundless speculation. For after all, had not the islanders and the French made a truce—although an uneasy one—just a month ago? Had not General Leclerc himself toasted “forgetting the past, promoting the future” at a recent banquet for the colony’s leaders? Were not, even now, the yellow fever-immune blacks nursing back to health their would-be conquerors after a violent epidemic? Moreover, would Leclerc dare to arrest Toussaint when a single word from him could spark an uprising . . . when his military lieutenants, among them the formidable Dessalines, could easily crush the fever-decimated French with an army of blacks? The signs denied treachery. And to Toussaint there was also a moral, honorable reason for accepting Leclerc’s invitation. He had entered a truce with the French. At all cost, he would keep his word. Said he: “To expose oneself for one’s country when she is in danger is a sacred duty, but to arouse one’s country in order to save one’s life is inglorious.”

So it was that Toussaint L’Ouverture . . . idol of his people, undisputed hero of Haiti’s freedom from slavery . . . rode down from his plantation retreat through the little mountain villages in June’s heat to an uncertain rendezvous. As he passed the French garrisons along the way, he became aware of a change in their attitude towards him. Before, the soldiers would stand at attention when he passed, salute him briskly. Now they were silent, motionless. Still Toussaint proceeded.

At Coupe-à-Pintades, a courier brings the lonely Negro a letter. Anxiously Toussaint breaks the seal. It is from Brunet.

*“There are, my dear General, several things we ought to do together, which it is impossible to arrange by mail, but which an hour’s conference would settle. Occupied as I am, I must ask you to come to my residence. You will not find there all the comforts which I would like to wel-*

*An audacious moment of courage . . . a calculated risk against overwhelming odds . . . a well turned phrase to inspire the struggle for freedom. These are the great moments of history. Here is the tale of such a moment*

*come you with, but you will find the frankness of an honorable man who desires nothing but your happiness and that of the colony. If Madame L’Ouverture, whom I shall have the greatest pleasure in meeting, could accompany you, I should be gratified; if she needs any horses I shall send her mine. Never, General, will you find a more sincere friend than myself. With confidence in the Captain-General and friendship toward all under him, you will enjoy tranquility.*

*“I cordially salute you. BRUNET  
“P.S. Your servant on his way to Port-au-Prince passed through here this morning.”*

Brunet’s reassurances of friendship and sincerity dispel Toussaint’s doubts, hearten him to gallop onward. Little does he know that his servant, mentioned in the letter by the honorable Brunet, already is a prisoner. Even less does he suspect that Leclerc, thwarted in his ambitions for a glorious assent within the French Empire and stung by the incensed dispatches of Napoleon to “rid us of Toussaint . . . of these gilded Africans,” is obsessed with a desire to eliminate the island leader . . . that the note he had received from the French Captain-General but a few days before was conceived in infamy.

It is now June 10, 1802, almost five months since Leclerc’s forces arrived in Haiti . . . since Toussaint chose to oppose them. Now, he approaches them in good faith. Dusk settles over the countryside. After a wearying three-day journey, Toussaint enters the plantation grounds. Brunet welcomes the traveller with flowing cordiality and together they go into the house. Brunet invites his guest to dine with him; gratefully he accepts. Brunet talks incessantly as he leads Toussaint into the dining room. It is a well-appointed table. The butler holds a tall, straight-back chair at one end of the long table for Toussaint. At the opposite end, Brunet sits, facing him. Wine is poured . . . the first course arrives. Toussaint eats heartily. Brunet continues loquaciously . . . eagerly he inquires about Toussaint’s plantation at Ennery, asks for advice on the agricultural situation of the island. Spontaneously they talked during the elaborate courses—fish, meat, each served with appropriate wine

from Brunet’s well-stocked cellar. Now all of a sudden they fall silent. Desert is served. The host becomes fidgety, begs to be excused for a few minutes. The old Negro sits alone in the massive room . . . a peaceful setting with the warm glow of tall candles flickering in the summer breeze blowing through the open plantation home. Peaceful . . . but there’s something amiss. Only the tick-tock of the clock standing in the corner breaks the awesome quiet. Toussaint finds himself breathing harder as he waits for Brunet’s return. He dawdles with his food, drops his fork.

Suddenly, 10 grenadiers with fixed bayonets led by Ferrari, Leclerc’s aide-de-camp, charge into the room. Toussaint jumps up from the table, knocking over the chair behind him, draws his sword, thinking these men are assassins who have followed him to the plantation. Then the truth strikes home. These are not assassins, he realizes . . . but henchmen of his host Brunet. Determinedly he replaces his sword in its scabbard, looks his captors straight in the eye, slowly, haltingly says: “Heaven’s own justice will avenge the cause I serve.”

With lowered point, Ferrari steps forward.

“General, we have not come here to do you any harm. We merely have orders to secure your person.”

But, seizing him like a common criminal, they bound him and whisked him off at midnight to a frigate waiting in the harbor of Le Cap to embark for France. Turning to General Savary, captain of the vessel, Toussaint spoke words he had undoubtedly prepared during the long hours he was being smuggled through the country to the ship . . . his last message to his people, for Haiti never saw Toussaint again: “In over-throwing me, you have cut down . . . only the trunk of the tree of liberty. It will spring up again by the roots for they are numerous and deep.”

In January, 1804, eight months after Toussaint perished in a dank cell high in the Jura Mountains in southeastern France, Haiti—shocked into action by one of history’s most treacherous betrayals—won its independence and became the first area in all Latin America to break its ties with Europe. The prophecy had been fulfilled.

# People

## IN THE NEWS

**The Winner:** Donning the yellow, blue and red presidential sash of Ecuador, *Camilo Ponce Enriquez* culminated early in September a quest which led him a vigorous chase over a tricky political course stretched before and after last June's elections. Following strenuous pre-election campaigning came a prolonged ballot count which finally gave Ponce a slim 3046-vote plurality over his three liberal opponents, all losers because of a three-way split in their party.

Winning the election, however, did



Camilo Ponce

not guarantee the presidency for Democrat Ponce in a country dominated politically by the Liberals for the past 60 years. An abortive military revolt in Manabí province was followed by a "congressional strike"—all engineered by the frustrated Liberals in a vain attempt to keep Ponce from being declared President-elect. Despite all, 44-year-old Ponce, an alert lawyer with considerable government service behind him, assumed office with the backing of out-going President *José María Velasco Ibarra* and a large portion of the country's military brass.

President Ponce now faces enormous political and economic problems, including a near-empty treasury, declined agricultural production and a pile of debts at home and abroad. But Ponce and his fellow Ecuadorians can take pride in the fact that he is Ecuador's third president in a row to be constitutionally inaugurated—a milestone in the nation's turbulent political history.

**Promise Fulfilled:** After completing his promised two-year service—plus a six-month extension—*Henry F. Holland* has handed in his resignation as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. In a letter to President Eisenhower, Texas Lawyer Holland, whose fluent Spanish and understanding approach delighted the Latinos, explained that the time is now "appropriate for me to return to private life."

The President accepted the resignation "with much regret," but requested that Holland remain available "to counsel my brother Milton in connection with the expanded role contemplated for the Organization of American States." Until a successor to Holland is named, his chief deputy, *Roy Richard Rubottom*, will act as assistant secretary.



Henry F. Holland

**Defendant Veep:** Brazil's youthful vice president, *João Goulart*, unexpectedly found himself defending his integrity before the Senate and nation against charges which he quickly labeled slanderous and calumnious. The accusation: that Goulart accepted money from Dictator *Juan Perón* in 1950 to foot campaign expenses of the late *Getulio Vargas*. Alleged official Argentine documents carried by Rio's *Tribuna da Imprensa* drew a prompt "phoney" rebuttal from the vice president, who got backing from the Argentine Embassy in Rio. In a dramatic speech before the Senate a few days later, Goulart branded the whole thing an "insidious conspiracy to slander me as well as the prestige of the public office to

which the country has elected me." Although the matter seemed settled, talk continued to linger about a new veep for Brazil.

**Energetic VIP:** After a hassle with a Legislative Assembly undecided about granting its blessing, Costa Rica's restless chief executive, *José "Pepe" Figueres*, finally got his way, set out with his wife and a small group on a 70-day junket of Europe. Among other reasons, the Assembly questioned the President's trip because of a) Figueres' motives for making it, and b) the consequences his absence may have on the "prevailing economic crisis." Despite this and rumors that the opposition is out to oust him, Don Pepe confidently vacated the presidential seat, left his Vice President *Blanco Cervantes* in charge of the government and word that he was crossing over to see for himself "what's happening."



Jaime Laredo

**Musical Hero:** With swelled chest and open arms, Bolivia welcomed back this month its artistic prodigy, 14-year-old *Jaime Laredo*. Plump and serious, the Cochabamba-born youth launched into a triumphal tour of his native country, demonstrating the violin artistry which won him enthusiastic notices in several United States performances, including one with the San Francisco Symphony when he was 11. Jaime, a violin student since he was six, has received most of his training in the United States, principally in California, Ohio and at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute.

PORTRAIT OF A CITY

# Havana

BOOMING PLAYGROUND



*With a diamond in the floor*



*In the Plaza de la Republica, bold conception and striking design*

Havana is the city of rum and rum-ba, of roulette and romance. Sometimes called the Paris of the Americas and alluringly described as the naughtiest, sexiest city in the world, Havana is both urbanely sophisticated and temptingly coquettish. Its face is forever resplendent, whether in the brilliance of the tropical sun or at nightfall in the glitter of winking neon.

Havana's personality reflects the influence of three cultures: the Spanish, the African and the Anglo-American, elements of which have been molded by time into a product uniquely Cuban. In this metropolis by the sea, scarcely a stone's throw from the tip of Florida, the ultra-modern and the archaic clash, yet somehow blend into a composition exciting to the eye and the ear. Here gleaming Cadillacs glide noiselessly over streets laid out by proud Spanish rulers over 300 years

ago. Strawberry sundaes appear on the same menu with *tortillas*, and TV antennae peek over rooftops centuries old. At noon, white collar workers stream from air conditioned offices to a leisurely two-hour luncheon and siesta at home. In night clubs, orchestras alternate between the beat of fox-trots and the sinuous rhythms of afro-Cuban mambos and cha cha chas.

Almost of necessity, variety has become an indispensable ingredient in the life of Havana. Cuba's capital is a show-off city — from the coarse, rough-hewed lines of familiar Morro Castle to the striking symmetry of the new *Plaza de la República*. It is a mecca for hundreds of thousands of novelty-seeking, shutter-clicking tourists — mostly from the United States. In droves visitors descend on this city of more than a million population seeking a glimpse of the exotic

or the excitingly "foreign." They promenade on the boulevards, clutter the bars and gyrate tirelessly on countless dance floors. And Havana welcomes them all with a smile and an overwhelming catalog of things to do and places to go. Such abundance of activities has led to one of the rare complaints about Havana — not enough time available for sleep!

In Havana, nature and architecture conspire to make the city a delight to the eye. Broad boulevards, such as *Paseo del Prado* and *Quinta Avenida*, riotously aflame with lush tropical shrubs, cut majestic swaths across town. *El Malecón*, one of Havana's finest byways, skirts the city along the shoreline for miles.

Along these splendid avenues rise high the symbols of modern Havana . . .

. . . The imposing Capitol, modeled



But for the shutter-clicker . . . Columbus Cathedral

after the United States' and famed for the magnificent 24-carat, blue-white Kimberly diamond imbedded in the floor of the main reception foyer . . . the Focsa Building, standing 35 stories high to top the city's skyline . . . Radio Centro, swank home to two television stations, two restaurants and numerous shops . . . and a host of other buildings of bold conception and striking design. In Havana's suburbs — Vedado, Miramar, Country Club—sumptuous homes, rivaling the proudest of Beverly Hills, lend elegance to the countryside and comfort to the gracious existence of well-to-do Habaneros.

Like most Latin cities, Havana has its old section. Historic, colorful, it spans time into a colonial past. In a comparatively small area along the bay front are the handful of sites and structures which mark the birthplace of *San Cristóbal de la Habana* in 1519.\* Here, removed from the boisterous voice of modern Havana, is *El Templete*, a small shrine on the *Plaza de Armas* where founder Diego de Velázquez celebrated the first mass in honor of the new settlement. North of the square is *La Fuerza* Castle, the oldest structure in the city. Beyond is Havana's Cathedral fronting a small but lovely colonial square, and 400-year-old San Francisco convent, which has been serving as the main post office.

\*Legend has it that Havana was named for an Indian maiden, *La Habana*. A more probable explanation is that in an aboriginal tongue *Habana* meant *Prairie*.

Modern Havana also recalls its past with numerous monuments . . . to the United States Battleship *Maine* . . . to the Chinese who fought in Cuba's war for independence . . . to José Martí, its foremost national hero . . . to United States Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt and other Americans who helped make Cuban history. A monument of another sort is Fourth of July Park, neatly landscaped and symbolizing United States-Cuban friendship.

**FROM ALOFT: BASEBALL.** For all its wealth of sights, Habaneros and visitors alike turn much more enthusiastic when exposed to Havana's galaxy of activities.

The sports fan who likes them all may have a hard time deciding among dog racing, cock fighting, horses, jai alai, boxing, baseball, boating, swimming, fishing and a score other outdoor attractions.

In the case of most Habaneros, however, the choice has long been made. Without question, his sport is *béisbol*. By the thousands, the *faná-*

. . . doorways centuries old . . .





And streets laid out by Spanish rulers 300 years ago

tics of the game flock to *Stadium de la Habana* practically year round to cheer or boo teams playing ball of major league caliber. Havana's *Sugar Kings* are members of the AAA International League and several Cuban players are with the U. S. majors.

When the World Series is on, work comes to a near standstill in Havana. A Cuban Airlines plane goes aloft with special equipment to pick up the TV signal from a Miami station and transmit it to a Havana network. In Central Park, in the very heart of the city, loudspeakers carry the results to attentive crowds. And in bars, stores and homes Cubans of every walk gather around television sets to watch the games play by play. Neighborly Habaneros even leave their front doors open so that passersby can stop in to check on the latest home runs.

With nightfall, Havana comes alive with the sounds of its warm music and the tinkle of ice cubes in dozens of concoctions made with Cuba's famous rums. The city of rum and rumba has 3000 *bodegas* which dispense liquor straight, mixed or bottled. Scores of cocktail lounges, such as Johnny's Dream Club, Tally-Ho, Mes Amis, Turf and the world renowned Sloppy Joe's draw nightly crowds in search of a drink, relaxation and friendly chatter.

Those out for more excitement find it in numerous nightclubs, ranging from small, low-lighted bistros with postage-stamp dance floors and three-piece combos to the super elegant, suavely expensive supper clubs: Tropicana, Sans Souci, Casino Parisien and Montmartre. With their gambling casinos and headline enter-

tainers—Cab Calloway, Nat "King" Cole, Dorothy Lamour, Maurice Chevalier, Eartha Kitt — these four are drawing an even greater slice of the international flutterby crowd. Tropicana proclaims itself the "biggest and most beautiful nightclub in the world." And maybe it is. Sprawled among the terraced gardens of a plush estate, Tropicana can treat 1750 customers at once to the best in food, drinks and spectacular floor shows.

For the gourmet Havana offers a complete range of gastronomic delights. An amazing gamut of tantalizing Cuban dishes—black bean soup, *arroz con pollo*, the famous chicken

and rice dish, and *conгри*, a creation of beans, rice and pork, are but a few of those which tempt the inquisitive palate. For variance from the Cuban cuisine there is everything imaginable, from elegant French to peppery Jewish to exotic Chinese to juicy, beef-red hamburgers.

**MACHINE GUN PRATTLE.** In all these places — the ball park, the beaches, the bars, nightclubs and restaurants—there is one common, sparkling element: the Habanero himself. His spontaneous vivaciousness . . . easy informality . . . sheer joy of living are very nearly national characteristics. Cubans do things with a great

# CUBA



Dynamic Cuba offers decided advantages to new and expanding industry seeking the growing markets of Latin America.

An unexcelled climate, choice industrial sites, and an ample labor supply combine with a stable currency, freedom of exchange and a modern banking system to provide opportunities for sound investment by industry. In addition, Cuba provides a rapidly growing market of its own and a strategic location across the air and shipping lanes to other Caribbean and Latin American markets.

It takes plenty of power to meet Cuba's growing industrial, commercial and residential needs. To meet this challenge, *Compania Cubana de Electricidad* has announced a \$147 million program to expand and improve its facilities and services. *Compania Cubana* now supplies more than 90 per cent of the electric power for the island—expects to more than double its generating capacity in the next five years.

This expansion program has been made possible through Cuba's record of progressive government which realizes the importance of providing an economic environment that is attractive to investment capital.

**Compañía Cubana de Electricidad**

APARTADO 1715

HABANA

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## HAVANA — BOOMING PLAYGROUND

deal of enthusiasm and hoopla, a quality which extends even to their conversation. Habaneros rattle off their Spanish at a fantastic rate and without too much concern for purity of pronunciation—much to the frustration of the tourist trying to make headway with his eleventh grade Spanish.

No Spanish, however, is needed to understand Havana's undeniable pride in the beauty of its women. Lauded constantly in poem and song,\* the young girls of Havana are radiant, good-looking, chic and expertly flirtatious. They are aware of their charms and see no harm in displaying them with becoming modesty. One of the Habanero's most enjoyable times is early evening. As the sun sinks in the Caribbean and a fresh breeze wafts in from the sea, he can sit at a sidewalk cafe, sip a rum with friends and watch the passing parade, including many of Havana's attractive daughters.

Nowadays, Cubans are also watching something else: television. Habaneros are great TV fans, which accounts for their city's incredible TV ranking—five stations and about 200,000 sets, or approximately one set for every six persons in Greater Havana. Radio also draws an enormous audience. Over 50 stations broadcast within the city, airing everything from the time of day to soap operas and grand

\*A recent popular song hit in Havana, *Las Cubanas de Hoy*, declares that today's Cuban girls "have no peers, that the good Lord must have molded them Himself, since only He could have created such beauty."

opera. At the countless movie houses in the city, Hollywood films predominate, but foreign flickers—uncensored—also get a big play.

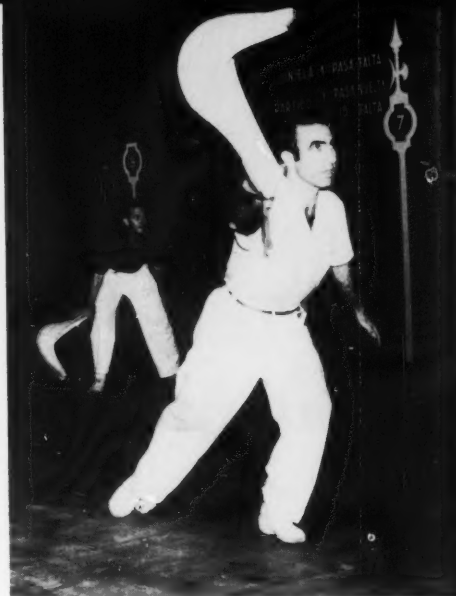
All of Havana's array of entertainment by no means make of the city an oversized playground populated by happy-go-lucky citizens eternally out for a good time. The Cuban is industrious and his capital is a progressive hard-working metropolis.

For the past few years Havana has been energetically carrying out an ambitious beautification program. Construction has been booming. Hotels and apartment houses are springing up and streets are being widened and modernized.

Among projects just completed or currently underway:

- ▶ The spacious Plaza of the Republic with its modernistic buildings to house government offices. In the center of the Plaza and visible from most parts of the city is the enormous Martí monument.
- ▶ The sumptuous Habana Hilton, an elegant addition to Havana's distinguished list of hotels.
- ▶ Extension of The Malecón, Avenida General Batista and Quinta Avenida.
- ▶ A sports palace on the outskirts of the city with a seating capacity of 15,000.

Another major project making rapid progress presently is the Havana Tunnel. Because the Caribbean and the Bay have blocked eastward growth, Havana has steadily spread westward. As a result, the suburbs are a good



For the sports fan, the choice is legion, Jai alai . . .

distance from the downtown business district. Yet less than a mile across the bay lie extensive lands which have never been developed. The new tunnel, deep beneath the channel entering Havana Harbor, will open up this area to be called East Havana.

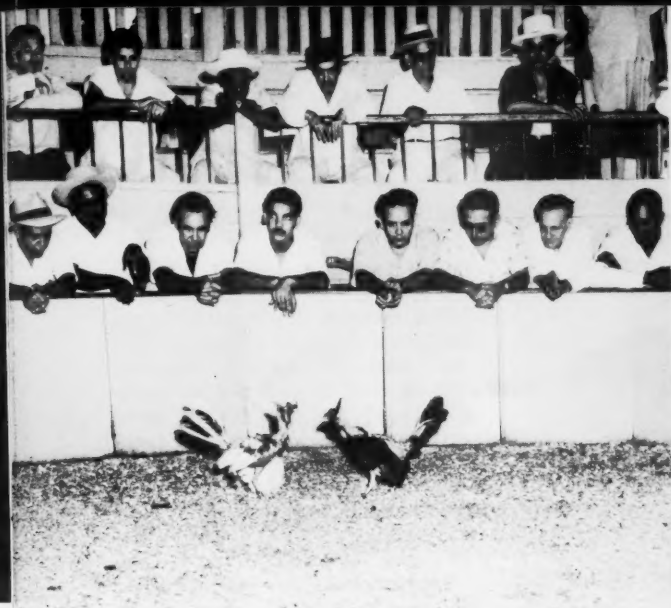
**FROM OIL TO MOVIES.** Just as Havana's glitter has lured the American tourist, its aggressive drive and potential has attracted the American investor. United States venture dollars, along with Cuban pesos, have been increasingly active in Havana the past two years. The present Cuban government has adopted liberal policies to encourage the United States investor to Cuba. Cornerstone of the policy is Law Decree 1038 of 1953. It grants tax and customs exemptions to new industries and to certain old ones. Estimates are that United States investments in Cuba have jumped from \$686 million in 1955 to nearly \$800 million today.

Recent moves of United States capital have included:

- ▶ Proposed construction of a \$4 million tire-making plant in Havana by the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company.
- ▶ Opening of a plant by the Champion Paper Company to manufacture milk cartons.
- ▶ Expanding its Havana refinery capacity from 9000 to 35,000 barrels daily by the Standard Oil Company.
- ▶ Building a refinery in Havana by Shell Oil Company and another in Santiago de Cuba by Standard Oil Company.
- ▶ Signing of a five-year contract between Dudley Pictures Corporation of California and the Agricultural and

And always Morro Castle. Timeless . . . with beauty





... Cock fights



But most of all, beisbol

Industrial Development Bank of Cuba to finance jointly the making in Cuba of full-length, English language films for worldwide distribution.

The United States Department of Commerce, describing the oil company expansion programs now under-

way in Cuba, forecasts that the "new investment in these three refinery projects is expected to total \$70 to \$75 million, one of the most important additions to foreign investments in Cuba since the 1920s."

Clearly, Havana enjoys and aims to

retain its status as an idyllic international playground. But the substantial financial transactions and developments being shaped in Havana today prove that it also is a profitable playground where the stakes are big money.



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**REMEMBER...**  
 in Mexico  
 your Dollar  
 lasts longer

# New Nation A



" House built on a rock foundation  
It will stand.  
Story is told through all creation  
It will stand.  
Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes! "

## Britain's Parliament approves Confederation Plan for Caribbean Colonies

Never have the words of this pulsating old West Indian calypso melody been more meaningful than now as Great Britain's island colonies of the Caribbean prepare to assume a new identity—consolidation into a political entity known as the British Caribbean Federation.

This is not a flash development reflecting irresponsible clamorings for national identity. Nor has it been sparked by hysterical outbursts of peoples caught up in a wave of emotionalism that washes over the beaches of reason with a destructive floodtide of fury. To the contrary, the emergence of these several colonies onto the threshold of statehood is the result of 11 years of active cooperative planning and preparation between British administrators and colonial spokesmen. The initiative often has been taken by Britain. It is therefore one of the signal developments of the democratic world in these times: A dramatic refutation of Communist propaganda charges that colonial powers re-

press their people in a kind of continuing bondage.

Seen from the perspective of other nations, this new Federation will have many unique characteristics. Geographically, it stretches out in an arched necklace of green-purple, hilly islands set in a crystalline Caribbean. Anchoring the string at either end is Jamaica to the west and Trinidad to the south. Notwithstanding the vast reach between these two major islands, the actual area of this new nation is something less than New Jersey's. Historically, these fabled Indies were the first territories of the New World discovered by Columbus. Later these specks in the sea would be eyed covetously, seized and fought over in the moils of European struggles for supremacy in this Hemisphere. Yet these are the latest to achieve national statehood. Politically, the Federation is a multi-racial society containing the various seeds of friction which have confounded other governments. Yet by sweeping away all discriminatory po-

litical, legal and social barriers, a smoothly functioning multi-racial governmental structure has been achieved. The various member colonies have established thereby a firm foundation for a federal government.

This harmonious coexistence is vividly personified by the individuals who have championed the Federation cause in past years. There is Norman Manley, born of mixed descent in Jamaica . . . charming, cultured, a lawyer with a distinguished career who is now Chief Minister of Jamaica. There is Alan Lennox-Boyd, Britain's Secretary of State for the Colonies . . . former Member of Parliament and a longtime civil servant in the traditional vein of the British government. And there is Grantley H. Adams, a West Indian of African descent, a graduate of Oxford and a lawyer, leader of Barbados' Labor Party and the island's first Prime Minister. These men, and others of equally varied racial and cultural backgrounds, have planned and worked together calmly and wisely to materialize a dream.

# n Arising

In the proceedings of the British Paliament on July 11, 1956 as recorded in the Weekly Hansard, it was resolved that in order to enable the federation of certain West Indian colonies, the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs would be provided funds up to an aggregate of one million pounds (\$2.8 million) "for the purpose of making grants towards defraying the cost of establishing the seat of the Government of the Federation; and . . . for the purpose of making grants for a 10-year period to the governments of member-colonies of the Federation whose resources are . . . insufficient to enable them to defray their administrative expenses."



ST. VINCENT, WINDWARD ISLANDS

*Sheltered harbors . . .*



KINGSTON, JAMAICA

*broad avenues . . .*



*. . . and sun-drenched beaches*

With this rather matter-of-fact language the House of Commons provided the necessary financial wherewithal for enactment of the greatest drama in the political arena today—creation of a new nation. Then through the words of one of its members, Commons wished "the people of the Caribbean well in this great adventure on which they are about to start."

But with the plaudits there also was expressed an awareness of the problems confronting the new government. It was recognized that none of the territories about to be federated are contiguous. In some instances the islands are separated by over a thousand miles of water. Even with air facilities which link the islands in a matter of hours, the communications-transportation network as a whole is inadequate for general needs. Separate economies of each member colony must be merged into an overall plan. This will cause some discomfiture in the wealthier colonies. Trade must be fostered and new industries encouraged—especially producers of consumer goods—so that capital investments will be properly balanced.

Yet patently the same members who posed these problems, confidently presume their successful solution. They presume it because of the caliber of leadership to be found there; because multi-racial society has proved no barrier to harmonious self-government in several of the colonies; because economic cooperation already

## THESE ARE ITS PEOPLE . . .



*A sea island cotton picker*

NEVIS



*Cocoa pod inspector*

GRENADA

*Spanish town market*

JAMAICA



has brought increased trade strength.

### EVOLUTION, NOT REVOLUTION.

Once having cleared the legislative hopper the Federation bill went to the Crown. It was signed into law on August 2. But for the people of the Caribbean the date to be celebrated will be February 23—Federation Day.

It was on this date that delegates from the 10 West Indian governments concerned, meeting in London at the express invitation of the Colonial Secretary, finalized plans on the actual form of government for the Federation and the procedures for its establishment. Actually, most of the pertinent details had been worked out at the London Conference in 1953. It was then that Barbados; Jamaica; the Leeward Islands of Antigua, Montserrat and St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla; Trinidad and Tobago; and the Windward Islands of Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent agreed on a plan for federation.\*\*

But the story did not start there any more than it has ended with royal assent. It started back in 1705 during the reign of Queen Anne. The Leewards banded into a federation which survived until the turn of the century, was eclipsed and then resuscitated in 1871.\*\* The fabric strengthened in 1929 and again in 1931 when it was suggested that the base be broadened to include Trinidad and the Windwards. Insular resistance and probable costs, however, put the matter in abeyance. Still the idea persisted. It was manifested in various regional projects in agriculture, education and economic development. Later on, the tendency showed in broader administrative grounds relating to currency, tourism, and import controls. Finally, during World War II political questions came into focus with the establishment of United States bases in the area. This development prompted formation of the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission—a body later joined by France and the Netherlands—to discuss common problems not only relative to the war but to long-range socio-economic developments.

All this fostered regional thinking, a condition fully encouraged by British colonial policy aimed towards granting self-government so long as the initiative came from within the colonial area itself. The West Indies felt that federation was the logical in-

\*The British Virgin Islands, and the mainland territories, British Guiana and British Honduras, decided not to be constituent members of the Federation but will participate in regional matters pertaining directly to them. Only the Bahamas remained steadfastly aloof from Federation planning.

\*\*It has been suggested that Alexander Hamilton, who came from Nevis, was influenced by this federal form of government when he helped draft the United States Constitution in 1787.

## ... AND ITS RESOURCES



*High quality natural asphalt*

TRINIDAD

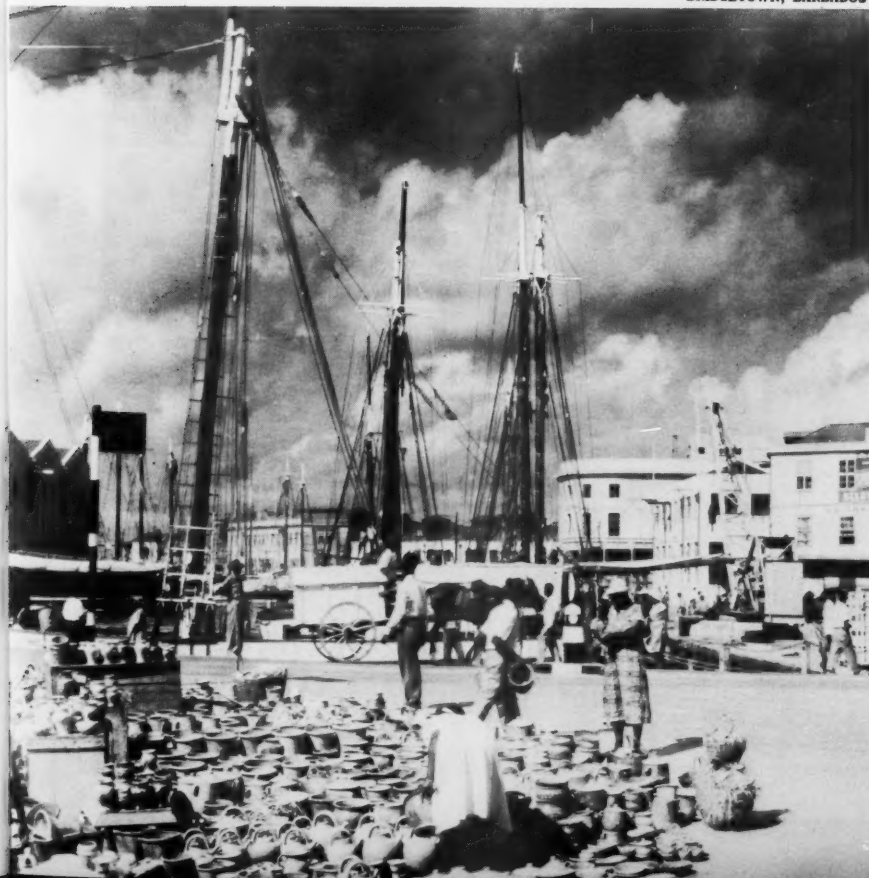


*And bounty from the gardens*

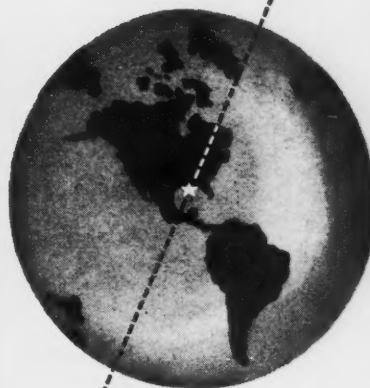
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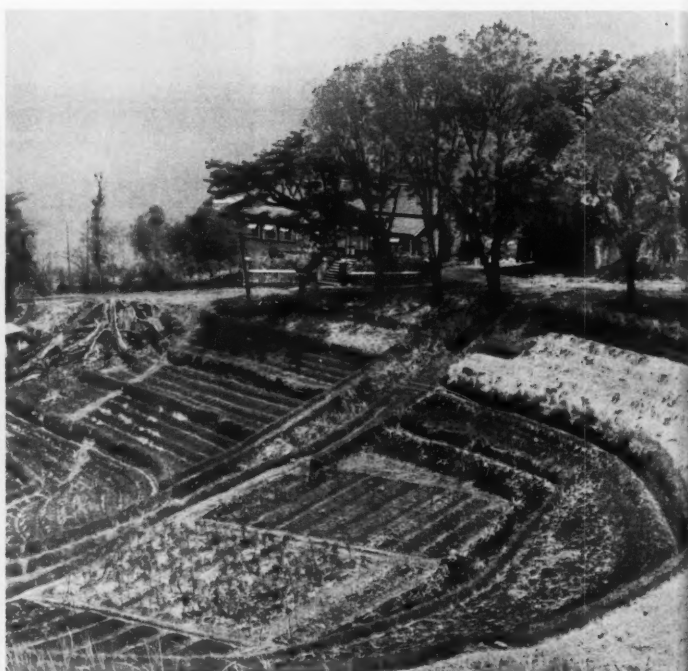
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# TOWARD A BALANCED ECONOMY



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Terraced farming boosts production

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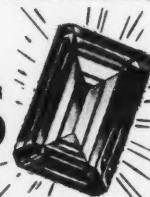
SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA: Apartado 1531

intermediate step that would lead in due course to national status within the British Commonwealth. Through federation the three million islanders could speak with one voice, could develop mutually beneficial programs pointed toward a regionally balanced economy and improved living standards. Federation could mean savings in administrative costs, could provide a sense of political unity.

In consequence, when the idea of federation was broached in 1945 by Colonel Oliver Stanley, then Secretary of State for Colonies, there was far greater receptiveness than in earlier years.

**BRAZILIAN**

**GEMS**



An appropriate

SOUVENIR

**R. SIMON**  
LTDA.

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL



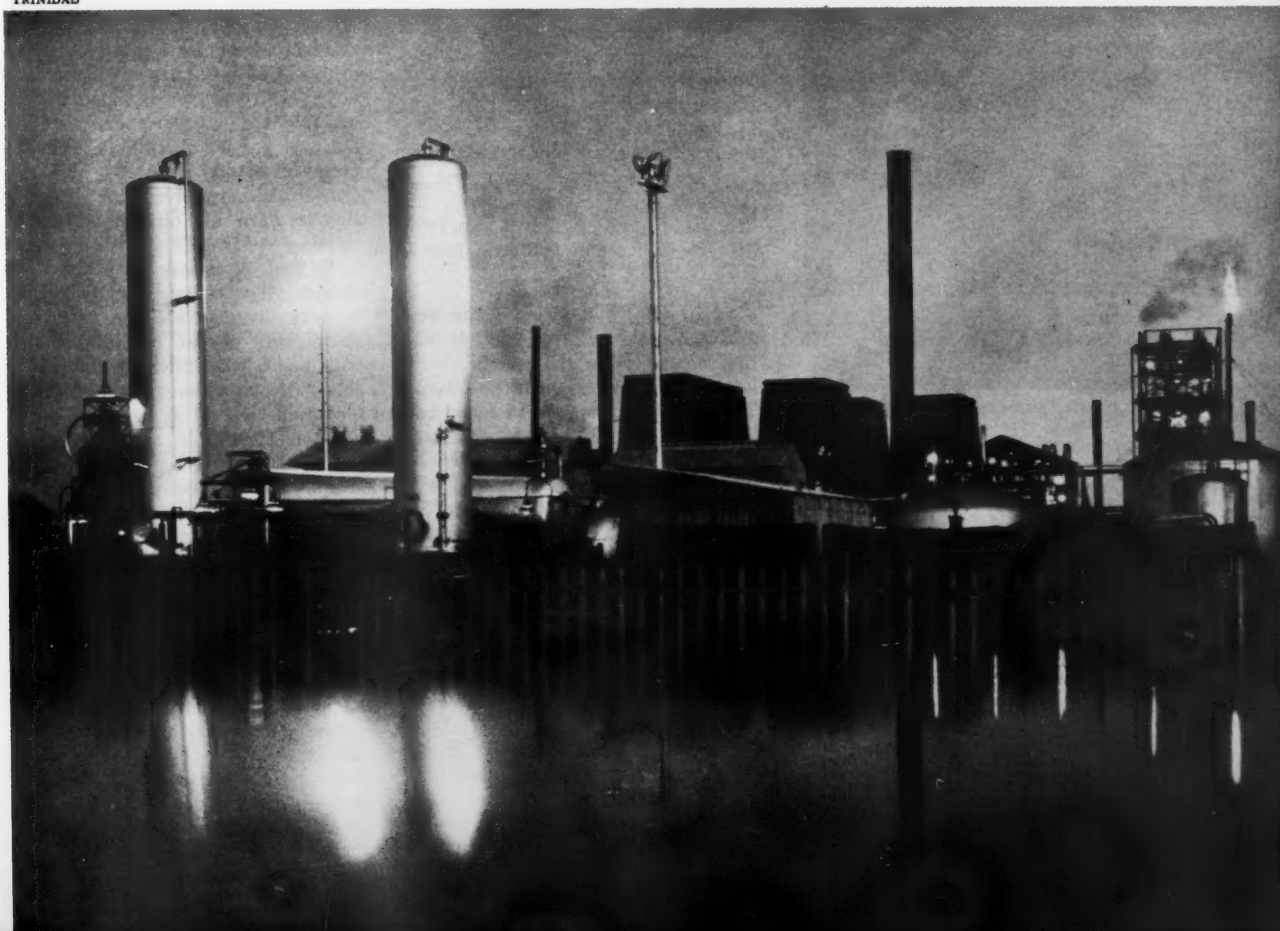
*Modern cement production for increased needs*

The first positive step was essayed at the Montego Bay Conference of 1947. Representatives from the various colonies accepted in principle the goal of a federal government with delegated powers. At the same time, they recommended formation of a Standing Closer Association Committee to study the ways and means of its accomplishment. This committee followed through with an extended series of meetings, seeking to draft a constitution. Various other special commissions were set up as well. These were concerned with a customs union to stimulate inter-colonial trade; with new industries and the unification of public services (e.g., agriculture, civil aviation, medicine, police); with currency and with fostering economic development planning.

By 1953 the results of the preliminary exploration were sufficiently definable to be laid before a full conference of delegates. Once again the principle of federation was affirmed. A constitution modeled somewhat on the Australian pattern was held out, i.e., all powers are reserved to the member-governments except those specifically delegated to the federal government. Its structure was quite simple.

*Oil refinery keynotes industrial growth*

TRINIDAD



## FROM PARLIAMENT . . . A RISING VOTE OF THANKS

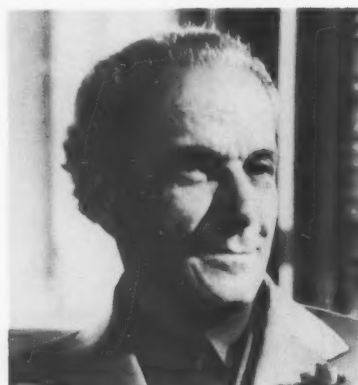
► A Governor-General to represent the Crown, whose authority would be limited essentially to questions of defense, foreign affairs and currency.

► A federal executive comprising the Governor-General and an advisory Council of State numbering the Prime Minister, to be elected by the House of Representatives, and various members of the legislature nominated by the Prime Minister.

► A federal legislature comprising the



*Britain's Lennox-Boyd*



*Jamaica's Manley*



*Barbados' Adams*



*The final meeting in February 1956*

Governor-General, an elected House of Representatives apportioned by population, and a nominated Senate.

► A federal Supreme Court with original jurisdiction in specified matters and appellate jurisdiction over criminal proceedings.

With modifications (three legislative members of the Council of State are to be appointed from the Senate by the Governor-General) and clarifications (enumeration of legislative topics as being exclusive to the federal assembly or subject to concurrent action with member legislatures), the delegates indicated that a workable plan for federation had been formulated.

**END OF PROLOGUE.** The next two years were busy ones. It was first necessary for the member legislatures formally to accept the scheme. Then another obstacle had to be hurdled: fear on the part of the more prosperous colonies that with federation they would be confronted with mass migrations from their less affluent partners. Well-to-do Trinidad acted as devil's advocate and in due course a legislative formula to control such movements was agreed on. With this much at hand, plus reports on judicial, fiscal and civil service questions still outstanding, a final full-dress conference was called last February to iron out remaining details.

The uppermost problem was finances. Ultimately, of course, the Federation hopes to become self-sustaining. As it is, contemplated income will result from customs duties (not exceed-

ing 15 percent) on imports entering federal territories, from postal revenues and incidental returns from the courts.

But the main assist will come from the Crown. Appropriations from Britain will help establish the seat of government; will cover deficits of member-governments entitled to administrative expenses for the next 10 years; will continue to support Colonial Welfare and Development funds, and will provide special grants in the event of natural disasters. With this crucial aspect resolved, the delegates signaled "aye" and history was made.

There are problems, of course, still to be met. A capital site is yet to be chosen. A committee already is hard at work on this issue and its recommendations should be voiced soon with anguished protests no doubt to follow from various quarters. The Governor-General is yet to be appointed. Meanwhile, a 16-man standing committee is functioning in his stead. Later this body will act in an advisory capacity until the government is formed after the first election, expected to be called in early 1958.

And so the fabled spice-and-sugar islands of another time, once fought and bled over as the only worthy prize in the New World, are approaching statehood with confidence. The future is theirs. As one of the project's prime movers put it: "Federation by itself will enlarge the possibilities of winning that prosperity which we West Indians alone can, and certainly must, create for ourselves."

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## IS CUBA A BASE FOR COMMUNISM IN THE AMERICAS?

**NO!** *says President Fulgencio Batista*

**EDITORS NOTE:** *At the historic meeting of American Presidents in Panamá [LAR, August 1956] Cuba's Fulgencio Batista took a searching look at Soviet Russia's policies today:*

"During the past few months, the leaders of international communism have attempted to convince the free world that an entirely new policy has been adopted . . .

"The objective of Soviet leaders is, we believe, to divert attention from the real purpose of international communism . . .

"There are certain discrepancies between Soviet Russia's new 'soft approach' policy and certain recent developments. Nikita Krushchev himself recently warned that international communism has no idea of abandoning the teachings of Marx, Engels and Lenin . . . that Soviet Russia will never renounce the struggle for the victory of communism.

"It is our belief that it would be folly for leaders of the free world to relax the vigil against communism at this time. As a matter of fact, this may be democracy's most dangerous moment, because once we relax our vigilance . . . the leaders of international communism will have us at their mercy.

"The only significant modification we can detect in the high strategy of international communism is that its leaders have altered their drive for world domination to this extent: Where, for any reason, they find it too difficult to implant international communism in a target area, they will settle, temporarily, for Titoism . . . a form of *national* communism, as distinct from *international* communism. The acceptance of Titoism by Soviet leaders overcomes the nationalism obstacle and gives victims the false idea that they can and will control their own brand of home-made communism.

"The truth is that Titoism is an opening wedge . . . the next inevitable development must be international affiliation with other communist countries. National communism, or Titoism, then, is just as dangerous and should be just as repulsive to free men as international communism."

*On the basis of this penetrating analysis, publisher William G. Gaudet called on President Batista in Havana for an exclusive interview on the dangers of communism in the Americas generally and Cuba in particular.*

**Q.** Mr. President, in your declarations at the Panama Meeting of the Presidents you referred to the dangers of communism, both on a national

and international scale. I would like to ask how dangerous you feel national communism is in Cuba.

**A.** Communism, in any form, in any area, is very dangerous to the free peoples of the world, for reasons known to all of us. It would be difficult to measure the danger in terms of degrees. Cuba has enacted very stringent laws against communism and it has created a special organization to combat the menace on all fronts.

**Q.** Do you believe that national communism in Cuba constitutes a threat to other nations of the Caribbean area or to other parts of Latin America?

**A.** No more than communism in any other country would endanger neighboring nations. As we have said, communism is dangerous no matter where it is.

**Q.** Recently there have been rumors that Moscow would like to make Cuba the center of communist activity throughout the Americas. This was tried in Mexico some years ago by the late Soviet Ambassador Oumansky. Are there any indications that the rumor has any foundation?

**A.** I doubt that international communism has any such plans for Cuba, especially after their experiences in Cuba in the spring of 1952. When my government came into power in March, 1952 we discovered that the Soviet embassy in Havana was being used as the central headquarters for communist agents and spies operating in this part of the world. We broke up this spy system with appropriate measures and this led to the breaking of relations with Soviet Russia. Cuba still has no diplomatic relations with that nation.

**Q.** If, as you say, poverty and economic distress open the way to Communist penetration, don't you believe that a one-crop economy, such as Cuba's sugar economy, might make an area more vulnerable to communist infiltration? What is your government doing to correct this unsatisfactory situation, through diversification or otherwise?

**A.** We are quite conscious of the fact that a one-crop economy is not the most desirable economy and we are devoting a great deal of time, attention and money to a broad plan of diversification, both in industry and in agriculture.

**Q.** There have been reports, which seem authentic, that Cuba has had an oil strike. If Cuba does have important oil deposits, what effect do you think the development of the petroleum industry will have on Cuba's economy?

**A.** There is a large-scale program of exploration under way in Cuba at this time. Much of the work being carried out by important, reliable petroleum companies. Oil has been found in a few areas, but I do not believe the extent or the value of these discoveries can be fully measured immediately. The Cuban government is cooperating in these efforts to the fullest extent, and we have a very liberal, modern oil law which seems to be highly satisfactory to all concerned with the oil business.

**Q.** If Cuba's plan for diversification of industry and agriculture includes a serious effort to attract



foreign investors, what inducements will be offered to those investors and what advantages could a foreign investor expect to enjoy in Cuba?

**A.** Cuba, from many standpoints, should be an ideal location for the establishment of new industries. In addition to the climatic and geographical advantages, Cuba has an abundance of labor, both skilled and unskilled; taxes are low; Cuba is a hard money country, with no exchange restrictions, and a number of special inducements, such as tax exemptions, are offered new industries. There is no antagonism toward foreign capital in Cuba and foreign investors enjoy the same rights, privileges and protections that Cuban investors enjoy.

**Q.** Finally, Mr. President, what, in your opinion, were the major achievements of the Meeting of the Presidents at Panama last July?

**A.** Anytime nineteen of the twenty-one nations of this hemisphere are represented in a meeting by presidents or presidents-elect, great benefits are gained, even though some of them may, for the moment, appear to be intangibles. Certainly when these leaders are able to sit down together, in an atmosphere of friendliness, as was the case in Panamá, the results must be good. I think the meeting in Panamá was an exceptionally fine one, and I believe it provided the inspiration for greater and better-planned cooperation among the nations of the Americas, and that, of course, is a very desirable situation.

# THE NEW

# VOODOO



Gangways are scarcely secured at dockside, or landing ladders wheeled up to planes before passengers disembarking in Port-au-Prince want to know when they can see a "voodoo ceremony." And it's not surprising. For all its new roads and smart hotels, Haiti has long been publicized as a land of mystery and strange rites. Upper class Haitians don't like it but have learned to live with it.

What happens when the tourist puts his question? If he puts it to the tourist agency people, he gets fast action. Popped into a car about ten o'clock in the evening, he is driven to a *houmfor* (temple) in or near the capital, where for the next two or three hours he is treated to a show which for sheer excitement can be equalled nowhere else in the Caribbean.

Is it voodoo? Those who know the real voodoo would shake their heads. It isn't, of course. Outsiders can and

do attend real services, but not in large groups, and not without knowing the people involved. These are strictly tourist performances. Yet it would be unfair to call them "phony."

They are real enough. The visitor finds himself in a sector of the city into which, without a guide, he almost certainly never would venture. The atmosphere is authentically mysterious: a *tonnelle* or peristyle at the end of some dark lane, surrounded by crowded hovels.

As many as a hundred persons may be in attendance, some merely watching, others taking part in the proceedings. The drums are voodoo drums played by voodoo drummers, their rhythm authentic. The dancing is voodoo dancing, ritualistic and strange, not the idiotic parody served up in some recent Hollywood movies. The chants are voodoo chants. *Houngans* (priests) or *mambos* (priestesses) are present with their white-robed *houns* servitors; cornmeal *veves* are drawn on the ground around the sacred central post as in a true service; there may even be "possessions" of a sort and the sacrificial offerings of small animals.

What's missing is the ritual: the endless prayers and recitations that drag a genuine service out for hours, sometimes days, and give it meaning in the minds of the practitioners. And for those seeking merely an evening's entertainment, this omission may be a good thing, for the full treatment would probably be tediously repetitious. This way a condensation is seen of the more exciting portions. The rest would be meaningless anyway, unless one understands Creole.

Even the more blasé find this voodoo ceremonial a strangely exciting experience. But a few profess to be disappointed. "Just a performance,"

they complain. "Why can't we go to a real *hounfor* and watch real voodoo people in action?" Chances are the same people who "performed" for them last night may be involved in a real service at the same *hounfor* tomorrow. The *hounfors* weren't built by the tourist agencies.

It came about this way: A few years ago, when visitors to Haiti were few, the tourist agencies used to load four or five passengers into a single car and go looking for voodoo—the real thing. They found it by listening for the drums—and knowing where to listen, of course. Arrangements were made on the spot for the handful of tourists to witness the ceremony. Usually the religious ritual was dropped while visitors were present, to be resumed again when the guests departed.

As time went on and the number of tourists increased, this sort of hit or miss approach to satisfy the venture-some tourist's demands became more and more difficult. It was one thing to prowl the city late at night in a single car, another thing to go winding through dark streets with a caravan. Obviously a more businesslike arrangement was necessary; a scheduling of ceremonies to be held at certain *hounfors* on specific nights. As to what happens at those *hounfors* on other nights in no business of the agencies.

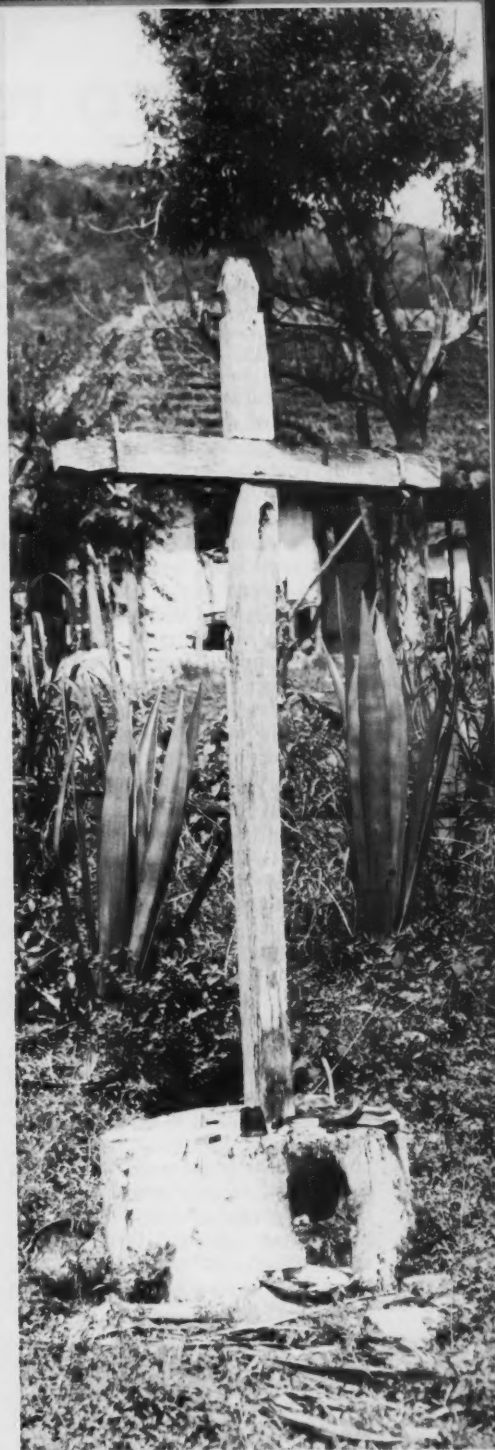
This does not mean that it is impossible to attend a genuine voodoo service, but admittedly it has become difficult. In Port-au-Prince today, genuine services are often held without drums, or with muffled drums, to discourage visitors. Still, a lone visitor who discovered one and entered with a polite greeting would be treated courteously and, if he made himself inconspicuous, might very possibly witness a complete service. In the country districts, where tourists are seldom seen, he would have to know enough Creole to establish friendly relations, or find a Haitian friend to establish them for him.

One thing the tourist can be sure of: though he may see only an abridged version, real voodoo exists today in Haiti just as it always has.\* Though frowned upon by the church and many upper class Haitians, it remains the religion of the great majority of the Haitian peasants, as real to them today as when their slave ancestors brought it from Africa.

During the Christmas season and on certain feast days, elaborate ceremonies attract thousands of the faithful to certain "sacred" spots. Other

\*For recent detailed studies of the subject, see *Divine Horsemen* by Maya Deren or the voodoo chapters in Hugh B. Cave's *Haiti: Highroad to Adventure*.

Unwitchlike, a Voodoo Priestess sat for her portrait



Baron Samedi guards a country crossroads

ceremonies, ranging in importance from simple family affairs to the mystifying fire initiation called *Brule-Zin*, take place in *hounfors* everywhere, all the time.

Yes, there are still drums to be heard in Haiti . . . drums whose steady throb can beckon insistently. A bridge from the well-ordered ease of a tourist hotel to another place, to another time, perhaps to . . . !

# PUERTO RICO'S

## Poet Governor

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Luis Muñoz Marín, Governor of Puerto Rico since 1948 and the head of its biggest party, is perhaps the only politician in the world who is worried by his huge electoral majorities. Recently he called in close advisors and said to them, "Our party is too popular!"

"But Governor, that's how the people voted," a staff man said. "We had nothing to do with it."

"No matter," declared Muñoz. "A healthy democracy needs a strong opposition." He thereupon proposed an amendment to the constitution guaranteeing opposition parties a third of the seats in each local legislature, regardless of how few votes they win. This is now being readied for enactment. A similar provision which Muñoz drafted to cover the island-wide legislature is already in effect.

Doing the unorthodox is orthodox for Governor Muñoz, a tall heavily-built man of 58 with bushy eyebrows over deep, gentle eyes. Repeatedly he overrides tradition in his efforts to improve the living and political standards of the island's 2,250,000 people.

He deliberately ignored all the rules, for example, in running for office. Once he delivered a flowery discourse on the beauties of Puerto Rico to a hallful of poor peasants. When they applauded wildly Muñoz rebuked them. He told them he had merely been repeating the empty phrases of the phony politicians. "Distrust all politicians," he said, "even me."

When private capital hesitated to invest in Puerto Rican industry he got the Government to set up five big plants to manufacture cement, glass, paper, ceramics and shoes. As soon as these plants were in operation he arranged for the sale of four of them to Luis Ferré, Puerto Rico's leading industrialist and his political foe. "We think Ferré has better sense about industry than politics," Muñoz said.\*

Before his party won control of the Government in 1940, Puerto Rico was

known as the pest-hole of the Caribbean. Since then the net income of the island's people has risen from \$230 million a year to a billion, and the annual income per family has jumped from \$660 to \$2360. Vast slum areas have been cleared to house 100,000 people in modern, low-rental apartments. Compulsory education has cut illiteracy from 32 percent in 1940 to 18 percent today. Malaria, venereal disease, tuberculosis, and the deadliest killers on the island, diarrhea and enteritis, have been licked. Life expectancy, which was 46 years in 1940, is now 64.

Most important, Muñoz has made democracy popular in this former United States colony, which now enjoys almost complete autonomy under the American flag. Communists never had real strength in Puerto Rico, and under Muñoz they have lost even their marginal influence in the labor movement. The last communist who ran for office got only 235 votes.

**THE PEOPLE'S MAN.** The Gov-

ernor is as unfettered in his personal life as in his official acts. He will squat on the ground and talk for hours with a peasant. In the late afternoon he often interrupts a conference to watch the sun set. His conversation is punctuated with poetical quotations—and sometimes with vivid profanity.

A Puerto Rican by birth, Muñoz was brought up in the United States. He came to Washington at the age of 12 when his father, Luis Muñoz-Rivera, a noted island patriot, was appointed Puerto Rico's representative (non-voting) in Congress. Luis, a brilliant boy, was enrolled in Georgetown University at 14, but he soon left college and gravitated to the bohemian swirl of the Greenwich Village section of New York City. Here he earned a thin living by writing poetry in English and Spanish, both of which he speaks impeccably. His first sale, a four-line poem, was to the late H. L. Mencken, then editor of *Smart Set*; it brought him \$2.75. Subsequently he contributed to various literary and political magazines.

In 1931 he went back to Puerto Rico. Joining his father's Liberal Party, he was elected to the Puerto Rican Senate. From the first, Muñoz stressed social reform. Traditionally, the peasants had sold their votes for a few dollars. Political bosses often paid peasants not to vote at all, locking them in stockades to make sure they kept their bargain. Muñoz started out to break this custom. For 837 days he toured the island, climbing to the most



A stern taskmistress, Mrs. Muñoz Marín keeps ties on the Governor at official junctions with the help of teen-age daughters Victoria and Vivian

\*Ferre's own political sentiments were expressed in his acceptance speech of the Statehood (Republican) Party's nomination for governor, when he described the Muñoz administration as a "boring dictatorship."



Governor Luis Muñoz Marín: Unorthodox . . . Dynamic . . . Beloved Leader

remote mountain villages and talking to the people.

"Two dollars will buy a lot of beans and rice for your starving family," he said, "but do you want \$2 or do you want justice? You can't have both."

His crusade succeeded. In 1938 he founded his own organization, the Popular Democratic Party and, in November, 1940, it obtained clear-cut control of the Legislature. It has been steadily returned to power ever since.

Having polled the largest vote of any candidate in 1940, Muñoz was named President of the Puerto Rican Senate, then the highest office held by a Puerto Rican. Seven years later, the people were granted the right to choose their own Governor, and in 1948 he was elected to the post in a landslide. In 1952 his margin was even wider: he got 65 percent of the vote, against 19 percent for his nearest opponent.

**HIS POLITICS: REALISM!** As "poet-leader"—a phrase he likes—Muñoz

has been willing to try anything that promised an improvement in Puerto Rican life. "I'm neither radical nor conservative," he says. "Just realistic."

He has distributed to landless peasants about 50,000 Government acres purchased from sugar companies. His rural electrification project has brought hundreds of villages their first electricity. He has built medical centers and hospitals, hundreds of schools, parks and playgrounds, and with U. S. Government assistance he has built 930 miles of roads.

If ready solutions are not at hand Muñoz invents them. A ragged old man said to him one day, "I want to improve my shanty but by myself I can do so little."

"Are your neighbors in the same fix?" the Governor inquired.

"Yes."

"All right," Muñoz said. "I think I can help you."

He and his assistants promptly devised a self-help housing scheme whereby the Government puts up the

four walls and the roof for a number of small concrete bungalows. Special technicians then teach the people in the neighborhood how to build the interior partitions and do the other finishing jobs. All the people work together on evenings and week-ends. Each family that worked gets one of the homes for \$300, which it can pay off gradually. Some 3700 such self-help houses have been built.

Muñoz came up with an even more unusual solution recently when his Secretary of Education, Mariano Villaronga, complained that there was no money for desperately needed schools.

"Let's put up some school buildings without walls," Muñoz suggested. If the government puts up the foundations and roofs, and supplies materials for the walls, the parents can make community projects of finishing the buildings.

Villaronga reluctantly agreed to build one as an experiment. It was a hit with both parents and children, and plans are underway to construct scores more.

In his battle to develop a healthy economy for Puerto Rico, Muñoz hit on a scheme to attract new industries. Over objections of the U. S. Government he provided 10 years' tax exemption to any U. S. company that would start a new enterprise on the island. He has even built factories and turned them over to mainland firms to run for profit.

He decided that if Puerto Rico had a swank hotel it would attract tourists, but no private financier would risk the investment. So Muñoz built a hotel with \$7,500,000 of government money and invited the Hilton chain to take it over on a profit-sharing basis.

Some 400 new enterprises employing 35,000 Puerto Ricans have been established in such ways. General Electric, Remington Rand and other large firms are now operating there full blast. The drive to industrialize the island passed a big milestone last spring when industry finally supplanted agriculture as the island's main source of income.

The United States, which obtained the island in 1898 after the Spanish-American War, never exploited Puerto Rico as a colony. In 1917 the U. S. Government accorded American citizenship to Puerto Ricans but retained the power to annul laws enacted by the local legislature. This rankled the proud Puerto Ricans. Most of the population wanted independence; some demanded statehood.

**SEPARATE . . . BUT CLOSE.** Muñoz realized that the island could not survive economically if American tariff walls barred its sugar and rum. Nor

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*Someday . . . Retirement and Poetry*

did he like statehood, which would deprive Puerto Ricans of their exemption from U. S. federal taxation. He ended by proposing a unique Commonwealth status under which Puerto Rico would voluntarily become "a free, associated state"—part of, yet distinct from, the United States. The United States would handle such things as defense and foreign relations, while the Puerto Ricans regulated all internal affairs.

Congress adopted his plan and in 1951 offered Puerto Rico that status if its people wished it. They did, by a plebiscite margin of three to one.

Puerto Rico derives much from this arrangement but it is by no means a one-way street. The island affords America a key military base in the Caribbean and a lucrative market (Puerto Rico bought \$580 million worth of American goods in 1955). Most of all, Puerto Rico provides the United States with a splendid example of generous treatment of a colony, and a powerful refutation of charges of imperialism. "In its relations with Puerto Rico the United States has been so forgetful of its bigness that it has fully disclosed its greatness," Muñoz has said.

His endeavors to keep Puerto Rico in the Union almost cost him his life. Five Nationalists, members of the same tiny but fanatical band which shot up Congress in a demonstration for independence, let loose at his official residence with submachine guns and pistols in 1952. He was unhit and unruffled. "Their aim is as bad as their logic," he remarked.

Muñoz draws a salary of \$10,600 and won't accept a penny more. Three years ago the Legislature wanted to raise his pay to \$20,000 but he an-

nounced that he would veto the bill. He had his way. The Legislature did lift the Governor's salary to \$20,000 but provided that the raise would not apply to the present incumbent. The result is that members of his Cabinet, who receive \$15,000 a year, earn more than the Governor does.

Though a politician, Muñoz has been remarkably independent of pressure groups. He was elected with labor support and is an ardent backer of the labor movement, but has bucked the unions when he believed them wrong. Recently, for instance, he went on the radio to oppose a bus strike in San Juan. The strike collapsed in two days.

**NECKTIES VS. POETRY.** The most severe criticism of him is that he tries to run the whole government himself. He keeps such close rein on his appointees that few dare make a move without getting his approval. And yet he is far from being a brisk, incisive executive. He puts in an 18-hour day, yet wastes much time on trivial details. When his assistants beg him to expedite matters he retorts, "What do you expect of me? I'm a poet."

He is even more the untrammelled spirit in his personal affairs. For months he left a window of his office open, ruining the air conditioning, because a bird had made her nest in the chandelier over his desk.

An informal person, Muñoz claims that there are two classes of men—"those who wear ties and those who don't." As soon as he quits his office each day he switches into an open-necked sport shirt. His wife, dark-eyed Inés María Mendoza, is an attractive, keen-minded former school teacher dearly loved by the Puerto Ricans. She keeps neckties on him at



But meanwhile . . . quick practical solutions to problems strewn behind the hurricane last August

official functions. They have two teenage daughters, in whose fingers the Governor is putty.

Books are his prime interest in life. He reads prodigiously in English and Spanish—everything from American magazines to the Spanish classics, mostly at night because he doesn't sleep well. Next to reading he loves baseball best.

Muñoz lives in the beautiful 400-year-old castle La Fortaleza, beside the Bay of San Juan. He also has an official country residence atop a 2600-foot mountain, with a 25-mile view over the Caribbean. The house he likes the best is his own modest cottage on a jungle-like plot of land near San Juan, which he paid for out of his savings. "This is where I'm going to retire and write poetry," he says. "And the sooner the better."

Muñoz realizes that Puerto Rico is still far from self-sufficient. The standard of living is low and unemployment is still a serious problem. The population is increasing steadily (having a density of 650 to the square mile, the island is among the most thickly peopled agrarian countries on earth) and it is a feverish race to make available enough food, homes and jobs.

**AN ISLAND LINK.** To help meet these problems Muñoz has organized a new kind of farmer cooperatives, imported specialists to teach businessmen how to make do with limited resources, and backed a string of supermarkets to show grocers how to cut food costs. He revitalized government clinics which dispense free birth control information. Regretfully he has thrown his tacit support behind the migration of Puerto Ricans to the United States. "If we don't hold down

our population," he says, "the island will sink into the sea through sheer weight of numbers."

At present Muñoz is carrying out a program in the schools and over radio and TV to teach his people to be moderate in their wants. "Puerto Rico can never be rich," he says. "Our people must learn to strive for

a decent way of life, an education for their children and a comfortable old age — and not be unhappy because they don't have everything their neighbors have."

Muñoz expects Puerto Rico to play a leading role in the fight against communism and other forms of dictatorship in Latin America. He believes his island can serve as a link between the United States and Latin America, helping to explain each to the other. Eventually he hopes it may point the path to "a democratic union of free peoples" covering both the Americas.

In working toward these goals Governor Muñoz will continue to go his own non-conformist way. Once our State Department proposed that during an international conference to be held in San Juan, delegates from the bigger powers be placed on a dais above the others. Muñoz was so mad that he told President Eisenhower about it during a visit at the White House.

"Who thought that one up?" the President said.

"I don't know," Muñoz answered, "but they won't get away with it."

They didn't. When the conference convened everyone sat on the same level. They always will if Muñoz has anything to do with it.

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*Havana's skyline . . . Soon to be viewed regularly by morning commuters from the east.*



## HAVANA BR

Through modern engineering, a tunnel under the Bay to open thousands of acres for metropolitan expansion.

Seven minutes away in point of traffic time, or approximately one mile in terms of distance from the congested heart of downtown Havana will soon appear a fabulous new skyline — a new Havana immediately across the Bay from the Havana of today and yesteryears. This is the goal in sight for the most incredibly ambitious, yet soundly planned municipal expansion program ever undertaken in this hemisphere.

Key to the whole undertaking is a momentous vehicular tunnel now under construction which from its cloverleafed entrance off beautiful Malecón Drive will burrow its way under the harbor entrance and emerge on the other side in the shadow of the Morro Castle—a straight shot to the city of tomorrow in fulfillment of a dream that took shadowy form at the turn of the century. It was not idle Utopian planning that prompted the tunnel and the vast projected building beyond, however, but rather the imperative urgings for space in a city

*Laying a backbone of steel . . .*



*On the other side . . . Morro Castle and the land that lies beyond.*

## BREAKS THE WATER BARRIER

bursting to expand.

When Havana was founded in the early days of the tumultuous 16th Century amid the clamor of empire building from afar and plundering attacks by pirates and patriots alike from anear, the major criterion in laying out any town was its military defensive capabilities. The city fathers accordingly located Havana on the west or low ground side of the harbor where it lay under the protective guns of Morro Castle which was on the elevated eastern shore. The seaward side was of course guarded by a wall of some size, all of which rendered the young settlement relatively secure from broadside assaults.

With the passing years Havana naturally outstripped its narrowing confines and began to expand. For the most part the growth pattern was westward simply because it was the course of least resistance. It was a long uncomfortable twenty-five miles by land around to the Morro Castle side, and to cross by boat was at least as inconvenient; besides, good drinking water wasn't always easily accessible on the other side which understandably dissuaded settlement there. So the town pushed out helter skelter westward.

But after all, the space available was not unlimited and Havana's pop-

ulation was increasing with rather vigorous bounds. As of the last census (1953) Greater Havana numbered 1,156,429 which represented a whopping increase of more than a quarter of a million persons in ten years, or an annual jump of 2.7 percent. By projecting this figure forward it has been estimated the city's population would be bolstered by at least another 708,000 persons within the next 20 years.

In the basic language of the city planners of today, each inhabitant requires something over 40 square yards of living-working space, plus an equal amount for streets, parks, playgrounds and public buildings. In other words,

Havana's additional citizenry of 1973 will require over 10,000 additional acres of city development—and the bald truth is that it's not readily available.

And if all of that is not reason enough the automobile statistics are even more persuasive: a fantastic increase from 86,000 cars in Havana in 1954, to 161,000 in 1955, hustling through streets laid out in some instances four centuries ago for burro-and-cart traffic, not the behemoths of today. Already the daily home-office trek and side sorties carry some 54,000 vehicles every 24-hours from the downtown area to the westward reaches of suburbia through a small



*A month later, forms for concrete*



Pedro Grau - Construction Boss Raymond Plutarque - Nicolas Arroyo, Minister, Public Works.

tunnel and bridge across the Almendares River—and that is 3,000 more per day than through the Holland Tunnel in New York. It defies imagination as to what effect another 700,000 people living out in that direction would have on the traffic pattern twenty years hence.

**NEW VISTAS.** Urbanization of the long-spurned land stretching past Morro Castle and Cabaña Fortress, which was readily accepted as the only realistic solution to Havana's long range growth pattern, raised once again the old problem of a means of access to the eastern side of the harbor. This time, however, modern engineering techniques provided a workable answer: a five tube tunnel—each with four lanes—to serve as the vital connecting artery; a tunnel that is demonstrating a remarkable new method of construction. Essentially a form of pre-fabrication, whole sections of the tubes measuring 360 feet in length and weighing about 16,000 metric tons are built at the water's edge, sealed up to become watertight compartments, floated out into position, and then sunk into place.

Coordinating authority which caused dreams and visions to become realistic drawing board plans and blueprints is the Compañía de Fomento del Túnel de La Habana, S.A., headed up by the very able Dr. Pedro Grau Triana, and cloaked with all the necessary powers through Law-Decree 1550 of August 4, 1954. With an anticipated construction bill of

over \$28,000,000 in the offing, Grau Triana and the Tunnel Company set out to persuade landowners on the eastern or Cabaña side that they ought to pick up most of the tab. As a matter of fact, it wasn't hard at all. Between assessments aggregating about \$9,000,000, and by assignments of right-of-ways valued at another \$11,000,000, the landowners have anted-up most of the security necessary to cover issuance of a 30-year, 4½ per cent construction cost bond by Financiera Nacional; the balance of the costs will be met by users through a small toll charge.

On the longer range side, when the landowners are repaid from operating

revenues the government will receive 40 percent of the tolls collected. After 30 years the tunnel is to be turned over to the government at no cost. "In addition," said Grau Triana, "government property adjacent to the tunnel (government owns 700 acres) will increase in value by more than \$60,000,000." Grau Triana expects that nearly a quarter of a billion dollars will be invested in the tunnel and in the new city of East Havana during the next ten years.

**1900 LAMPS EASTWARD.** As remarkable and impressive as the tunnel is, to the planners it is little more than a connecting link from the old city to the new, which they confidently describe as one which will be "the most beautiful and modern in the world." And maybe they're right.

The tunnel will open onto a fabulous 14-lane thoroughfare (six for high speed express traffic) capable of carrying 12,000 vehicles per hour, which will cut through four bedazzling miles (sample: 1900 street lights) of planned modernity. Much of the seat of government will be there; a new presidential mansion and six ministries all to be garlanded with extensive parks. And beyond that, commercial areas centering on lush parks, and quietly cool squares with murmuring fountains . . . and in turn residential sections laid out and zoned not only for practicality but style and beauty. With it all there is continuous pursuit of a theme, a striving to couple the stainless steel, plate glass reality of today's high tempo living with the gracious qualities of relaxation of a time past. And isn't that the paradox of our bustling 20th Century; hurry forward to an ever faster pace in order to capture some of the past.

It is for this future that Havana hurries eastward . . . for Havana that is the direction of progress today.



And this is what the future holds . . .

# Books

a look at the new

## Transformation— The Story of Modern Puerto Rico

By Earl Parker Hanson  
Simon and Schuster, New York  
(English), 1955, 416 pages, \$5.00

The self-made man who attributes his success to pulling himself up by his own bootstraps is often received with scepticism, condescension and boredom. "No man is an island," and we know that spontaneous generation is as unlikely in society as in the laboratory. Yet in *Transformation* we see a whole people, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, emerging from the cocoon of colonialism by peaceful struggle into the dignity and stature of civic maturity. This metamorphosis, of which the reviewer was also an eyewitness, is accurately and comprehensively told in *Transformation*.

Earl Parker Hanson, a close observer of Puerto Rico for more than 20 years during much of which time he lived on the island, is a reliable commentator. A geographer formerly with the University of Delaware, he now lives and writes in San Juan. Few men living are as well qualified as he to write the story of modern Puerto Rico, and to his knowledge he adds the ability to bring people, events and data to life, so that his book reads as easily as a novel.

"We are only realistic," Governor Luis Muñoz Marín is quoted as saying, and certainly "the facts" form the basis of any clues for change. The facts of Spanish background, United States dominion, and the environmental and human resources of Puerto Rico comprise the content of the introductory chapters. Due credit is given to the federal administrations of the 1940's, including controversial Governor Tugwell, for laying the foundation for "Operation Bootstrap" and, more important, for challenging and training the young men who were

to become the leaders in government and business of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Besides detailing the constitutional changes which gave birth to the Commonwealth, *Transformation* treats fully such topics as agriculture, power and industry, tourism, public health, education, civic employment, culture changes, the population problem and migration, and concludes with an arresting chapter, "Where Now?"

The words of Dr. Rafael Picó, now Secretary of the Treasury of Puerto Rico, in the preface to this book, are worth repeating:

"Puerto Rico is a significant bridge between the two cultures of the Western Hemisphere. Before it emerged, it was pointed out as a sorry example of the evils of either the Latin American *mañana* spirit or of North American imperialism, or of both. Today it is the best proof of the results of friendly intercourse of these two cultures. In an era when extreme nationalism poisons many underdeveloped lands, Puerto Rico kept its head and devised its own political status. Fully self-governing at home, it has freely chosen to continue its association with the United States, with common citizenship, ideals, and interests."

*Transformation* is equally suited for use as a travel book, for a text in contemporary economic and social problems, and for an authoritative history of twentieth century Puerto Rico. Its clear pages are not cumbered with footnotes and there is no formal bibliography, but a full, analytical index augments the table of contents as a key to the wealth of information contained therein. This book is for the teacher, the student, the traveler, the businessman and the informed citizen, and deserves the excellent reception which it has received.

—Frederick E. Kidder  
School of Inter-American Studies  
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# Around the Hemisphere

**LITTLE NIBBLES, BIG FISH!** The curiosity of a Havana city councilman has mushroomed into an international tiff. While sailing in the Caribbean, José Navarro noticed the British Union Jack fluttering above Cay Sal, a sandy speck about 50 miles north of Cuba. Back in Havana, Navarro talked with some high government officials and soon the grapevine was humming with complaints of British "incursion." Getting wind of the matter, the British Embassy unequivocally declared that Cay Sal is British territory. What's more, it was learned that Britain had granted a 99-year lease on the tiny island to a Florida contractor, and that he is developing a tourist resort there. Historians and geographers rummaged about for facts, but were unable to agree on Cay Sal's nationality. With Navarro and others clamoring that if proper action were not taken Cuban fishermen would eventually be limited "to fishing with poles from our coasts," the debate reached President Batista, whose government soon declared that it "was studying the antecedents of the case."

**AREN'T WE BEING A LITTLE BOURGEOIS?** Despite loud warnings of "propaganda" and "infiltration" from the Nationalist China chancery, Santiagueños turned out in droves to see the 80 singers of the Peking Opera perform during their visit in Chile. In appreciation of the warm reception, the applause and the 4000 pesos (US\$8.) each patron forked over, the departing Communist China company threw a lavish cocktail party for 500 guests. The gay Chileans, unhappily subjected to a curative regime of "sobriety and austerity," applauded the affair as the liveliest in years. The Opera's tab for such plaudits: 3,500,000 pesos (US\$7000.) of the Peoples' Republic's money.

**WORLD SERIES STRATEGY.** Residents of the dusty hamlet of Coyolito in El Salvador little realized how competitive a soccer game can be. But they got a strong hint when the captains of opposing teams in a recent match entered the field equipped with--of all things--long-barreled pistols. Word soon got around that the two captains were bitter enemies off as well as on the sports arena. Tension built and exploded violently when a referee's decision was disputed. Pistols were drawn and machete-swinging spectators swarmed onto the field. The soccer match ended scoreless, but the unscheduled contest racked up a grim tally: six dead and six injured, including both team captains.

**SOME CHOICE: FUMES OR NOISE.** A Rio de Janeiro dentist claims to have a partial solution to modern metropolises' tear-jerking problem: smog. The Brazilian amateur inventor, who likes to tinker in physics and chemistry, has produced a device called a "fume eliminator." Attached to the exhaust of any motor vehicle, the gadget, says the inventor, purifies the fume 100 per cent, leaving only "warm air." City administrators from Los Angeles to London might regard such a contraption as a warm blessing.

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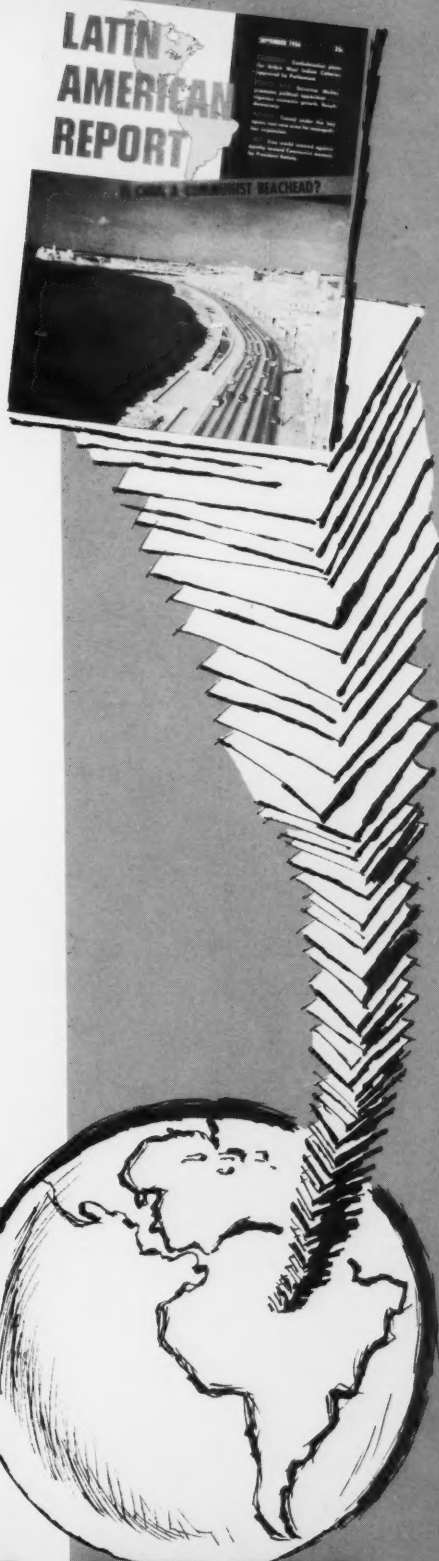
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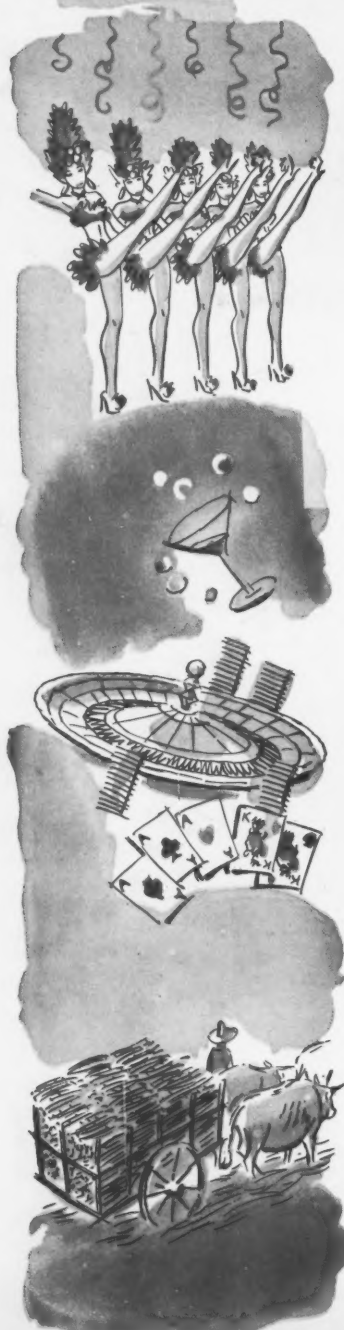


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